

Kuro no Maou

- The Black Demon King -

- Volume 13 -

Roar of Red Rage

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CHAPTER 191

MAGICAL BEAST

Salamanders are also known as fire dragons, even among numerous monsters it is a representative-like, symbolic existence.

Salamander has no forelegs like a bird, but has hind-legs along with two wings, it has a figure like that of wyvern.

It has deep crimson colored scales, which seems like blazing fire, covering its body. Its two wings flap and dance in air, and its fangs and claws more sharp than average swords tear up the prey.

And its certain-kill dragon breath, which has the might of a high-level attack magic.

If people see its figure, abilities, they would be compelled to be awestruck and understand that it is one of the dragons which stands at the top of living beings.

Those salamanders have, here, in this Galahad Mountain Range's northern part's summit, set up a nest.

There is an ideal natural cave present for changing it into nest, most probably the salamanders living here for generations have been using it.

In addition, the most strongest one in this northern part of Galahad Mountain Range also has the right to use that place.

The users this time were without exception, salamanders which have larger stature compared to other salamanders.

Among the male and female, normally male has a big frame, but this couple both have big frames.

When facing the dragon like Salamander, these two were the most dangerous pair.

First they have two heads, have larger powerful bodies and power compared to normal salamanders, and have increased their guard because they are in the middle

of raising their young ones who have already hatched from eggs, and the last point, the female is as strong as the male.

Taking all this in considerations, it becomes easily understandable that subjugating them would be more harder than a rank 4 quest for subjugating 1-headed normal salamander.

These two were the strongest individuals in the northern range of Galahad Mountain range, it was both affirmed by demons living in surroundings and even Spada Adventurer Guild, however,

SFX: Gaaaoooooo!!

The moment that ferocious yell resonated within the cave, they were taken down from the throne of strongest being.

The cave acting as the nest for Salamanders, had scent of blood drifting inside, to the extent one would choke by sniffing.

Inside there was no the dragons who were strongest, but a ghastly cruel sight which can only be put up in one word 'Cruel Massacre'. Only the scene of massacre was spread.

The strong wings which danced in air were teared off with power, the children were lying on the floor teared here and there like a paper.

The jaw which was lined up with fangs which could crunch the prey, had been forcibly wrenched open and divided into two parts, the lacerations reached the middle of neck.

The strong tail which could even defeat other salamanders too was teared off from the roots, it can't be swung as a whip from now on.

The strong red dragon scales were smashed into pieces as though hit by hammer.

However the point to be surprised would be that the scales which even dragon breath can't scratch were melting and falling.

The two-headed were the same too, they were teared to shreds, smashed into pulp, it couldn't be identified who was male or who was female, their bodies only revealed the ghastly manner of death.

As for why something like this was happening, the answer is quite simple and easy to understand even for a monster.

That's right, it only meant that someone more stronger than the two-headed couple has appeared.

SFX: oo0000oo000oo000!!

Once again the yell resounds in the cave.

The source wasn't the already-dead salamanders, it was a magical beast completely different from a dragon.

At a glance it looked like a Gorilla, the scene of it walking on four legs while attaching front limbs on ground completely resembled a gorilla.

However, its height was like that of a monster, the overall height from arms to head crossed 6 metres, and its overall length from the head to the end of tail was more than ten-odd metres.

Compared to salamander, yeah it was small, compared to humans, they would both be classified as big-type monsters.

Its body has been tightened to the extreme limits, compared to that of a gorilla its body was lot more sharp, however the bulged muscles on the upper body would be like boasting its strength just like how minotaurus or cyclops do.

It has five fingers on hands, but the arms were so thick that they can't be compared to humans, gorilla or even minotaurus. It looked like the trunk of millennium years old tree.

Especially the right arm which was thicker than left, and it helped in supporting the strong power.

On the back of right hand a jewel like a 『Beryl』 was buried and was releasing bright red light, the tremendous magical power near it can be the only reason for the melting of salamanders scales.

It had the black hair, but around the neck, chest, and the arms are deep crimson colored hair as though the blazing flames have been put into a shape.

Even now the red hairs are flickering like a heat haze, the tail grown seemed like that of cow's tail and the red hair on the end seemed like a torch.

[ET: Why do I get the image of that one something from Pokemon when reading its tail got a torch?]

The magical beast walks forward while waving its creepy and prideful red hair, the place it was headed to was the place children of salamanders wailing *Kyuu Kyuu*.

The reason they couldn't escape while wanting to wasn't because they froze up in fear, but the wings which can let them fly even if they are very young had been half-torn off.

With their hind-legs they could run faster than humans, but one side of them had been uprooted and they could only crawl even when using all their power.

Other ten too were being raised here, but they too half-killed by none other than this black and red magical beast.

In the first place, before the two-headed parents of them were killed, they already had their legs and wings torn off.

The moment the parents moved their eyes from children, the magical beast took the opportunity and half-killed every child, for it the work would've been too easy.

Of course, the parents noticed the violence of this intruder one second later, and attacked with heart full of rage.

And the situations arrive at the current time, in other words the children were made to see their parents getting killed in front of their eyes.

No one knows what the children of salamander, who don't have the intelligence like that of a human, had thought while seeing their parents getting killed.

But however, there's no doubt they would've felt fear seeing the magical beast coming towards them while they could only keep on wailing.

That scene was something a sadistic person would gleefully watch and trample on it, and thus, the magical beast laughed.

[ET: Oh no, I'm not much sadistic, though I feel pleasure in trampling every person in games!]

A sharp face like that of a face, but the face which was smiling gently, could only be seen as an extremely evil smile.

The long ears which seemed like the ears of rabbit, were wavering as though feeling really ecstatic.

The black eyes with red pupils was narrowed in pleasure, and took time in looking at the figures of children wailing.

Like that, after some time passed, it picked the head of one child who was crawling to run, and threw the child into its mouth.

Crunch crunch Not paying attention to scales and bones, it eats the whole body while the blood drips from the mouth.

Maybe it felt satisfied from the taste of salamander's meat, it raised a moan, and desperately tried to run here and there with its half-torn wing and legs. Then, it moves onto the next child.

The meal time got finished in less than 5 minutes, finally the only living being inside the cave became only the magical beast.

SFX: GaaooOooOooOooOO!!

The repulsive yell not only resounded in the cave but also went outside.

It was to show that it was the new ruler of the mountain.

CHAPTER 192

GENEALOGY OF DEMON KING

I had always felt something ‘different’ from this world ever since I was a child.

I also think that the place I need to be is not this boring world but a different place.

However, I don’t know where that is, and it’s troublesome to go find on my own without any clues, is ridiculous, and I hate to waste my energy.

[ET: Hyouka anyone? Well this guy is more like me! and less like Oreki]

That’s why I, Nero Julius Elrod am ditching the boring needless class, and taking a nap on the roof of school.

「Sigh.....」

I sight while watching the endlessly stretching blue sky, boredom comes.

But, this place is much better than the fucking royal place of that shitty Avalon.

It’s not like I wanted, but I got born in the fucking tremendous royal family of Avalon, the legitimate successor state of Elrod empire.

Let’s add spice, I am also the first in line to inherit the family, fuck that.

I’ve got no interest in becoming the king, after all then I would need to handle those shitty country level problems.

Even in this school life I am living, I have to deal with troublesome problems or get into accidents too. If I became the king, wouldn’t a world war start, no I’m being serious here.

I only want to live peacefully, want to evade troublesome situations, not stand-out, but the gods of Pandora don’t let me and I want to kick their asses one time, especially, the guy who rules over fate, I won’t stop with one kick.

Well, if becomes too peaceful then once again boredom kicks in, one can't be satisfied with life easily.

「.....Hm?」

While thinking those ridiculous things, I sense presence of people.

It's not like I trained, but my five senses are better than a run-of-the-mill sort of person, thanks to this talent I had two times killed the assassins when I was a child, this is one great talent.

There are 2 signs of approaching, neither can I feel magical power nor hostility, they're simply moving forward and climbing the stairs.

Oh geez, I never thought someone else other than them can come here during class times, they're quite rude visitors that can't read atmosphere.

Even I have no intention of showing my sleeping face boldly to others, it would not be good if I got attacked, in both meanings.

Me getting up from the bench and the entry of the uninvited guests coincided.

I sent a fleeting glance, there stood a known face and unknown face, this is quite an odd couple with great difference in house.

The small one is Simon, a person from that Bardiel family, and is also a famous student so even I who can't remember names easily have remembered his guy's name.

He is the legendary man who gets full scores in written exams in every elite course examination but gets zero in the practical exams. It has been going on for 3 years already, really a lauaghable story.

In the fourth year he finally entered the Magical Engineering course, and the legend has finally come to an halt.

However if he can get more scores than me in written exams he could go into the Civil course and get an elite course there, but I can't understand the reason he entered the magical engineering even though he's not a dwarf. In the end, he is too much jumbled up for me to understand.

I heard that he left the school temporarily for raising funds for school fees, but from that uniform looks like he came back.

Well I only know the name and legend, and I don't have even the tiniest bit of interest in his circumstances.

I'm more curious about the tall man who is with Simon.

He is wearing a shitty thing like Magician Apprentice robe which even the freshmen don't wear now-a-days.

But, there is no opening in this man.

Even the instructors of this school can't possibly have no openings like him, he is without a doubt someone with lot of power and is hiding it.

[ET: No mate, only you can understand his value in Spada other than his companions]

At a glance he would seem like a magician due to the robe, but his body is supple and toned to the extent.

It's like he is bodyguard hired for Simon by the Bardiel family.

However, even more surprising things are his hair color and eye color.

The black hair and red eyes, are only found in the direct descendants of 1st Emperor of Elrod Empire, Mia Elrod, the demon king.

The people with black hair and red eyes both are quite rare in the royal family, mostly they get one, either black hair or red eyes.

This man, though one eyes is red, but he has the characteristics of black hair and red eye.

If he got that by coincidence then it must be miracle.

Thinking from the left black eye, then one of his parents might have black hair and black eyes like that of those foreigners.

[ET: Foreigners = Another Worlders = Earthlings = People like me and you = people struck by boredom]

And as for the other left eye, if he inherited some magical power then only he can have a red colored eye.

Well what, it's only somewhat rare, not something I have to think about.

Well half of the genealogy of Demon King is a rumour, neither does it has credibility, so upon searching there must be a person with black hair and red eyes, not like I had seen one before today, though.

Concluding like that, I, with sleepy eyes, left the roof because some intruders intruded my sleep.

The other side too must be thinking of me as an intruder, well then, what would that man and Simon do on this roof with no people, it's not like I have no interest.

I can maybe even scoop the time of legendary man Simon entering the world of adultery with same sex.

Maybe I should let the servant record it, and I will get really high money if I leaked it out, after all the other man with Simon, though his type is different, but he can be considered as a handsome guy.

Well those sharp glaring eyes may a subtraction point for many people.

I have lost an interesting chance, while thinking that I come down the stairs,

「Ah, you were ditching the classes by being on roof!」

and a voice I'm all-too well familiar with resounded in my ears.

「No, I'm not at the roof right now」

I'm on the stairs.

「These stairs lead to only roof, that means you were on the roof just before!」

He guessed the truth with his reasoning.

「Aren't you too ditching the classes, Charl, the classes are going on」

The girl wearing a red mantle the proof of elite cadet and is waving her red twin-tails is called Charlotte. In full name it is Charlotte Tristan Spada.

[ET: Name reminded me of Charlotte (anime)]

It's not like you won't understand even after hearing it, this girl a true princess, more precisely, third princess.

Well to me she is a lass who is a hard to please and has an inseparable relationship of childhood friends with me.

「Don't think of me the same as a delinquent like you, I have already completed my quota of Magic Circle Application II」

More than half of time for classes is still left, she is excellent like always.

Her golden eyes and red hair is the same as her father 『Sword King』 Leonhart, but unlike that monster of a father, her face is of a beautiful girl, it's really good for you Charl that you got the face resembling your beautiful mother.

If you say my desire, I would've liked if her body was raised like that of female, like her mother, like the chest or bust.

Well then, there is no time to think about the part of girls can be called rude, if she sensed it, then she knows no restraint, and a kick would certainly fall into my face.

「So you finished first? Fast as always」

I want the kick in face to go in hell, so I change the subject to a safe topic.

「Unfortunately I'm 2nd」

Not being much depressed, Charl tells as if natural.

No matter how much pride Charl has, compared to him she too doesn't be conceited.

「It can't be helped with Safi being there」

「Yean, it couldn't be helped because of Safi」

Though she is necromance not a magician, she has learnt the model magic to perfection, that villain in glasses.

[ET: The same line people in log horizon use but here it's a woman]

Right now she might be shut-in her darkness filled laboratory while creating her new manservant.

「So the reason you came searching for me is for lunch?」

「That too, and also about the next quest!」

This princess is having too much sparkling eyes, Ah, please no, she has surely found some damn troublesome quest.

「Give me a break, we're already standing out as rank 4 adventurers with talent and whatnot」

At this pace, we would become rank 5 adventurers even before Charl's brother Eisenhart became.

Just by the royalties of Spada and Avalon combining in party is more than enough to stand out, now I don't need anymore spotlight.

I'm merely using Adventurer Guild for killing time instead of working as an adventurer to learn something.

「Don't worry about their jealousy or envy, we are we and don't care about the surroundings」

「Hmm, well you're right but.....」

Do you know princess who is the one who deals with those problems every time?

It's better to not say that, I'm not a super masochist who loves getting his ass beaten.

「Well okay, so what is the quest?」

「You have heard about the nest of salamanders, right?」

Of course, no matter how much appropriately we've been doing, after reaching rank 4, we obviously have heard the information about famous dungeons and places.

The nest of salamanders is the place in northern part of Galahad Mountain Range where every year the salamanders build a nest.

It is the cave in surroundings of summit, it is the ideal location for making nests, it seems.

The salamander who has gotten the first place leaving his same family behind means it must be the strongest.

So to say, it's like a natural dungeon like place where boss appears.

And it is the mostly recommended dangerous sport for jumping in the flames nest.

「Don't tell me.....」

「Yes that don't tell me , it is!」

Sigh, I heave a heavy sigh.

But, I don't know the magic to stop Charl after she has gotten this much interesting in something.

「Well alright, a two-headed salamander, we'll see it when time comes」

「This year's one is really big, so you too have to be serious about it!」

I hate getting serious it tires me out, and these guys will defeat it while I only need to do little support, please help me okay, get it, right?

「Then, let's quickly go to school cafeteria, we need to take the seats」

Charl starts running in the corridor while forcibly pulling my arm.

「Ah, Oii, geez.....it can't be helped, huh」

I am always manipulated by Charl.

But, when I'm with her talking like this, I don't feel the 'difference' in world, neither get bored, so even though, she does all troublesome things, I don't hate being with her.

CHAPTER 193

WING ROAD

The quest Charl took was,

Quest: Subjugate the couple 『Salamander』

Reward: 30 million klan, 10 million klan upon the subjugation of just one

Time limit: By the 1st of Blue Moon month.

Client: Adventurer Guild

Description: New salamanders have started acting in the 『Nest of salamander』 . The couple this time are very big ones, rare to find in recent years ——(Rest omitted)

Exactly like what I had expected.

「In truth, one month ago a rank 4 party accepted the quest but had their tables turned, thanks to that we have the chance of getting the quest. We're lucky, right!」

What the....., damn clumsy party, salamanders are monsters living here since ancient times, so there are innumerable ways of defeating them, still they lost.

However, the 'big ones' should mean that they are unexpectedly very strong.

At any rate, they are still tiring and troublesome opponents, I'm not quite willing to accept it, but

「Ooo, I'm fired up! A man needs to fight a dragon, only that is worthy for a man!」

This muscle headed idiot, Kai, has become too fired up.

And I mean, don't get up from the damn chair and shout, the painful stares from everyone in dining hall hurt.

But well, an fight-loving idiot like Kai, would naturally want to take up the quest, after all salamanders are representatives of monsters, are quite strong compared to normal ones, and have defeated a rank 4 adventurers.

This man, Kai, though is saying completely foolish sentences, his full name is Kai Est Galbraith, the son from the one of the 4 Great Nobles, the Galbraith Family.

Furthermore he is the eldest son, yeah Galbraith family is doomed.

Or so I would like to think, but because they are a family lineage of Knights standing equally with Bardiel family, so if the person is strong then almost everything is OK to do.

Kai is lacking in magic, but as for the swordsmanship he has already reached first-class level, in a normal sword battle with me he can easily win, defeating me.

Including the top of his pointy golden hair, he can easily be of 2 metres tall, it's just as you think, this guy is a friggin giant strength-type person.

Thanks to that he swings the tremendously heavy long sword as though it is a baton, and has already learned many master class martial skills, his talent isn't something that should be as a student anymore.

Well, he can't use anything other than sword, so if I use magic on full power, it's easy to defeat him, in fact, if I don't defeat him then i can't continue being a close friend with him.

「You're really a stifling idiot.....worst, just go and die」

Cold stare and words strike at Kai who is still fired up even before the salamander subjugation and is standing from his seat.

The person who said is a slender beautiful girl with eerie violet long hair, the eyes behind her glasses are also the same violet which reminds me of some sort of deadly poison.

No, her eyes truly are 'deadly poison', if there were no glasses the nasty effect of 『Demon Eyes』 would've already attacked Kai.

In fact, a little effect is leaking from the sides of glasses and attacking Kai.

「Ouu」 Kai raises a groan and sits back quietly, you're good, keep on doing this thing.

「Eh, What, Safi, you're against it?」

As if the damage caused by friendly fire to Kai is not seen by her, Charl asks nonchalantly.

Safi is her nickname, even I say that.

So, the reply of that Safi-chan is,

「I'm in favor of quest itself, I can get new materials after all, really interesting」

FuFuFu, the sight of her revealing an eerie smile on her cold beautiful face seems like the witches that come out in fairy-tales.

But her true identity is not a witch, but something even more ominous, her class is the one which rules over the dead 『Necromancer』, that is her, Safiel Maya Hydra's official class and identity.

The family of Hydra is the same as of Kai's family, in other words it too is one of the 4 Great Nobles.

Spears for Bardiel, Swords for Galbraith, every family has their special weapons, but Hydra family is well versed in magic, that is of course, not model magic but 『Necromancy』.

Kai is a prodigy who has already learnt the swordsmanship needed to inherit the seat of head of the family, but compared among the prodigies Safi would be superior.

She knows 『Necromancy』 and also has learned model magic to a high level, furthermore she also has 『Demon Eyes』 for support.

These 『Demon Eyes』 can deploy an effect of some sort of magic upon seeing someone, this is one sly ability in the eyeballs.

It is possible to have them due to genetic hereditary, but the possibilities are really low.

But, well as you can see, this girl has demonic eyes as if it's natural.

「Sigh, it's just a cheat」

I leak out that murmur unintentionally, but

「What do you mean cheat?」

Whoops, looks I said it out loud.

「You don't know, they are the underhanded tricks used when playing board games, or the person who uses them, for example, a dice which always gives 6」

Hmm, Safi consents to it while raising a tone not showing any admiration.

「So, who's the cheat?」

「No, that was just me talking to myself.」

I evade while raising a smile and giving out a vague answer

Safi glares at my face for some second then moves her head away, looks like the threat of demonic eyes has gone.

「So then Kai and Safi have agreed, so it's decided to take this quest!」

「Where's my say in this?」

「It's decided!!」

She is pushing through without hearing me.

Well there are 5 party members, now 3 have agreed to it, so I can't possibly make them not take the quest.

「Well it's fine with me, but have you clearly asked Nell?」

I speak the name of the last member who isn't present here.

「Yeah, I've already asked in the previous class.」

Don't keep talking in the class, or so I thought to tell her, but that isn't a line someone like me, who ditches the classes, should say.

The class Charl was in before, Safi too was 『Magic Circle Application II』, ah, no wonder that clumsy Nell is overworking right now.

「What did she say?」

「Naturally, she too agrees.」

Sigh, I heave a sigh.

Nell, full name, Nell Julius Elrod, just like the name says, she's my little sister.

She is the only member lacking in fighting ability, that's why she feels inferior and so she never objects to anything.

Though I say fighting ability, Nell is a 『Priest』 so she doesn't need to have tremendous powers like we four have.

Though she has no spotlights in fights, but she can use Heal and Cure both, a rare talent, furthermore she also has a more rare divine protection, so because of her, the balance of party always remains constant.

But, even if I, her brother says it, it would only seem like I'm favoring her, so there is not much effect whenever I say it.

The one problem I'm currently being troubled, the low self-confidence of my sister, needs to be set aside temporarily and I need to pay more attention on quest.

「Then, us 『Wing Road』's next quest is the subjugation of Salamanders」

The leader of party, I, officially inform the taking up of the new quest.

We 5 elite cadets, I, Charl, Kai, Safi, and Nell, have formed an adventurer party which goes by the name of 『Wing Road』

Now that I think about it, it has been a year already, and we're rank 4.

If this quest is successful, we'll be one step closer in reaching the highest rank, Rank 5.

It is unheard of someone becoming Rank 2 in the second year of academy, I don't want to stand out at all.....Well, working as an adventurer I can't show a behaviour that will make us fail in our quest, that won't be good, let's go and finish this quest quickly.

CHAPTER 194

ANGEL APPEARS!?

2nd of Red Flame Month, We 『Element Master』 are running on the highway aiming for the dungeon to complete the next quest.

But, the legs that are running are not ours.

The thing that is running like a gale on the highway while kicking the ground is two black horses.

In other words, we are horse-riding.

One side is Lily and the other side is Fiona.

Incidentally, the formed is named as Merry and latter as Mary.

「Kurono-san have you gotten somewhat used to horse-riding?」

「Ah, No, Lily is also here.....so not that much」

Lily, who is supporting the beginner at horse-riding, me, by using telepathy to form a bond with horse, laughs 「tee hee」 proudly.

Looking just that would seem like a pleasant scene of Element Master having fun as adventurers, but this black horse I'm currently straddling on is a present from these two, so I just can't feel happy.

Yes, this horse is the present.

Yesterday, Fiona said this,

「In truth, we both have prepared a present for Kurono-san, please take it」

That is this horse, moreover it came with a set of splendid harness.

No not only that, the other present was the Cursed—no, for now let's only worry about this horse.

Cavalry is a necessary item for adventurers.

For reaching the dungeons in the various places, there exists the dragon carriage service, but having a personal horse is more useful.

Its uses isn't something, I, who has lived in a world where private automobiles have spread big and wide, needs to know again and again.

But however, that useful personal horse is expensive, its price equates to the price of cars on earth, no exaggeration in saying that here.

That's why it is said to take a personal horse only after becoming a veteran of rank 3.

Their opinion is that rank 1 and rank 2 should hone their abilities in the dungeons nearby, so it's only natural for them to say that.

Comparing from the common sense of adventurers we have purchased a personal horse before time, so to speak, it's like a school student already has bought a personal car.

I have no intention of shouting that luxury is enemy, I too had been thinking to buy a personal horse after reaching rank 3.

Lily and Fiona gave this to me as a present as if to say, it's isn't much.

I'm grateful for their feelings to give me present, and am happy too.

But, this present in itself is really expensive.

If I had to say in modern-day Japan like feeling it would be, I'm still a high-schooler but got myself a luxury car.

My money sense is not paralytic that I can meekly accept the present by just saying 「Thank you」 .

Due to my sensibilities as a coman man, it's natural to suppress my surprise more than the happiness.

「What happened Kurono-san, you're making a complicated face, did you perhaps not like this horse?」

「Eh, you want to buy a new one?」

「No, wait wait, there's no problem with the horse!」

The statement of Lily is really scary, just buying something new because you didn't like it.....that's the thinking of celebrities.

「I still haven't recovered from the shock completely」

Thanks to this present giving case, I found out Lily and Fiona are really rich people.

Up until now we hadn't needed any large amount of money, so I too have never asked them 「How much do you have?」

But, opening the lid they both have several tens of millions of klan, adding up both of their total assets it crosses over 100 million klan.

With that much, they can buy me millions of horses as gift, but I just can't recover from the difference in money sense.

Or is my thinking strange as an adventurer?

「You shouldn't worry much about it Kurono-san, we can easily earn hundreds of millions easily」

「That's right, Kurono don't worry about it, okay?」

We're not being conceited, our true strength far surpasses rank 4.

For high ranked adventurers earning that much is really easy, naturally, the danger levels and strength of monsters too is high.

「I see, that's right.....I will just accept it grateful for now. But when I get more money, I will present you both something awesome, get hyped for it!」

If I don't say that, I won't be able to get out of the uncomfortable feeling of being blessed.

But this, my equipments, funds for Simon's research, and presents for these two.....just how much will I have to earn?

It feels like I have been caught in a really big debt cycle though being only 17 years old.

After shaking on the horse for some hours, I have arrived in the base of northern part of Galahad Mountain Range, the village of Dacia after a week.

Compared to the time I came here in the dragon carriage, the fatigue levels are completely different, I still can't get used to horse-riding.

However, it's not the time for complaining about it, this is a required skill for living as an adventurer, I have to learn it as fast as I can.

For that, I am heading towards the stable of village which keeps the horses, by pulling the reins of this two-headed horse.

That's why I have sent Lily and Fiona to the adventurer guild of Dacia for completing the formalities, and this time we have to capture something alive, so the situation is different from normal.

「Oh, there it is」

Pulling the reins of black horse, after walking some time I see the destination, stable.

I will reach in some time, the moment I had that impression,

「Uuo!」

I was stopped by the reins.

I don't know what it thought, but the horse had stopped moving.

「Oi, what happened?」

I naturally ask the question, but a normal horse can't possibly answer my question.

What? Why stop? While thinking that I pull the reins hardly, but the horse doesn't even move a centimetre.

Really what happened, just before it was following me.

What, do horses stop moving suddenly?

I neither have the experience in straddling neither nor do I have any knowledge of horses' behaviour, so I have no idea what actually happened.

「What happened, come on, move」

This is bad, unless Lily and Fiona come I have no way of solving this problem.

But I'm not a summoner, or else I would have called a servant and sent it to call them both here.

Having said that, if I leave here to call them both, then these two horses might run back to wild.

I can't solve this problem alone, this horse is still not trying to understand my feelings and is just standing there boldly without moving even a bit.

「I give up.....」

Is this the the thing, to be at a loss, the only thing I can hear is the nasal breathing of this horse *Bufu*, what is this sense of emptiness.

The time I felt that mental pain,

「Um, are you troubled?」

I was called out from behind by a girl with a warm and pleasant voice feeling like the sunlight of spring.

I turn back and there stood the girl I had imagined, no, even more beautiful girl.

Her age is the same as Fiona, her face has hints of baby face which can let her be called as a young lady, and her expression is serene like that of lady.

The glossy black hair is separated in two sides from the bangs, the back hair is long enough to reach her waist, commonly said it is the princess haircut, no, she does have the air of a princess around her.

Her blue eyes calm one down and her gaze under her sharp eyebrows is lovely, her white face is well-ordered just like a doll, I can't feel the coldness that comes from Sariel who too is a white faced beauty.

The reason I have overlapped her with Sariel must be because of her attire.

There is no emblem of cross, but a white cloth like that of monks or priests with comfortable designs is wrapped on her body.

Most probably she is not a normal villager, she might be adventurer with the class of Cleric or Priest and works in a temple or somewhere sacred.

Both classes are traditional and have continued since ancient times, I don't have the theory of hating a person wearing the same attire, so I have nothing to say about her attire.

On the contrary, the more I look the more she is different from Sariel, her height is around 170 cms. Quite tall for a girl.

To add more, she has something that she wins against Sariel, Lily and Fiona too who is far surpassing the normal standards, that is breasts.

That too is so big, even though she is wearing a priest like cloth for hiding body lines, they are still pressing forward claiming their presence.

The scene of Susu-san having big breasts in the morning suddenly appears in my mind, it's the same as that, or even more.

Well I'm not the man who can be swayed by big breasts only.

No, even a big-breast loving guy, will feel more impact on seeing the thing this girl has.

That is the white wings sprouting from her back.

They are not wings of light like Lily, but white big wings of soft feathers like that of a swan are sprouting from her back.

The little movements of the wings is proving that they are not artificial.

There are various types of races in Pandora, but I have never heard of a race with the appearance like that of an angel, is it mutation? Or else, I just don't know but they do exist here?

Either way, it's not good to ask her someone's race on meeting them for the first time, it is rude

Even if she had a halo above her head and looking just like an angel, but here I should talk to her as a kind girl who called out to me.

「Ah, Sorry, well my horse isn't listening to me and has stopped moving」

I explain the miserable situation while revealing a wry smile to this angel-like beautiful girl.

「Oh my, that is troubling」

The angel does a reaction which coincided with her expression and words.

Looking at her reaction, looks like she isn't scared from my face like those female students from the other day, this is good.

So an angel doesn't judge a person based on their appearances, eh, really grateful.

「It's only a little to reach the stable, but it suddenly stopped, just what might have happened」

「Oh, so you're taking the horses there, right?」

Yes, I had no reason to lie so I affirmed.

Then, maybe she liked something in my answer, she opened her mouth full with confidence while making her eyes glitter violently.

「In that case, I can help」

A statement filled with willingness, kindness and volunteer-like intention came out of angel's mouth.

「Rally? Thank you very much, it will help me a lot」

I immediately accept her help.

It really helped me, now I don't have to wait like a fool holding the reins and keep on waiting for Lily and Fiona who god knows when will come.

「Yes, please leave it to me」

She smiles brightly as if a halo has started to shine, and immediately starts helping me.

Without faltering in front of large horse, she patted the nape of the neck of the two-headed horse with her white hands as if it is her pet dog.

Do they start listening to their owners if done like this?

I quietly looked at angel and horse flirting while tightly holding the reins.

「—Hey, please, can you hear to what he says」

I heard her mutter that in a really low voice.

Normally, the animals can't understand words, so her actions seem to be normally trying to talk to her, but I know person who can talk with them.

Due to that, I cannot help but feel that she can too talk with animals like Lily.

「This child seems to be slightly afraid, but, it's alright now」

Looking back at me, she tells me that while smiling.

I, feeling 50% faith in those words, pull the reins, and

「.....It moved」

The horse moved a step forward.

I pull more then it moves one step, two step, three step, it had returned to the state he was before.

「Thank you very much, it really helped me」

I send the heartfelt words of gratitude to her who is looking at me and horse with an happy expression.

「No, same here, I'm happy I was of use」

She replies with a perfect smile with no ulterior motives.

I have to clearly thank her, I tried to, but

「Well then I will have to go now, let's both have good luck on our quests」

I couldn't call out the words to stop her while looking at her gallantly leave the place.

「On our quests eh, so she was an adventurer」

I unintentionally murmur that.

I couldn't feel the sharpness of an adventurer who fight as if it is usual, so I can't hide my surprise that she wasn't a normal priest.

But, there are also exceptions like Lily, not all have that '-esque' feeling on adventurer, not always people match with their appearances.

Anyhow, there is no doubt that I was saved by her kindness.

I once again thank the angel, who is now no-where to be seen, in my heart and started walking while pulling the reins of the horses.

CHAPTER 195

CAMP

「We are the, son of 『Sword King』 Leonhart Tristan Spada, the great man owning the, the white holy sword, forbidden black magic, and, the epitome of darkness, the reincarnation of demon king, that's right, We are Wilhart Tristan Spa—」

In front of the entrance to Dacia village, the second prince of Spada, Wilhard named himself in high spirits, but

「You're too noisy, idiot brother!」

「Daaaaaaaaaaaaa!!」

After getting a strong drop kick from behind, Wilhart rolls on the ground for some times.

He has already dirtied the glorious red mantle of elite cadets by the mud.

「W-Who was that!? To slip through our sixth sense field and attack me, you don't seem like a normal person.....don't tell you're the lone survivor of the crazed assassination organization 'Shadow Moonlight'—」

「Who is the lone survivor of some assassination organization, can't you stop discharging your delusions, idiot」

[ET: Try to remember this delusions about a great assassin, it might help in next chapter for you to know that this guy is a genius!]

Wilhart gets up while thinking about the heroic past of a great assassin who had learnt threatening assassination techniques.

Looking in front, there stood a red twin tail haired girl in an imposing manner with a scornful expression.

「Oh, isn't this our sister, the attack just now was a really good one, looks like you have learnt a part of monk's strength」

「I'm a magician! Don't change my class on your own accord!!」

Wearing the red mantle of elite cadets, the second prince and third princess of Spada, Wilhart and Charlotte were looking at each other face-to-face.

「However, why are you here?」

While posing his monocle with his index finger and doing a cool pose he had practiced a lot, he asks his sister.

「It's because of quest, isn't that obvious. We're not here for 'camping' unlike you 'substitutes'」

The elite cadets are divided in two teams, one is formed by superior people and the other one is mish-mash by inferior people.

The people from the first team call this second team as 'substitutes', a team with substitutes, in other words it's a derogatory term.

「Gununu, I never said it was my outdoor training trip, you shouldn't judge on your own speculations—」

「Several groups of 5 people with that big luggage, moreover the destination is Dacia Village, what else can it be other than camping?」

The outdoor training trip is the class commonly called as camping by students.

This is a humiliating class for those who can't survive on the outside easily, in other words someone less than an adventurer.

The contents of the outdoor training camp is to spend 1 week within the mountain forest present in the northern part of Galahad Mountain Range.

And, because they are given more things than needed, it becomes overloaded, besides a group of 5 people has been set as a rule.

The current Wilhart has been selected applicable for taking the outdoor training.

Of course, the other 4 members have taken quite a distance away from Wilhart.

「Fu, Kukuku——That's a good reasoning my sister Charlotte, I, indeed have to take this cursed asceticism of hell, I have come to this Dacia village for that and am about to go to the training place」

「Asceticism of hell, eh.....quite an interesting hell that is, if you even have a maid」

「Ku, Nuoo.....」

Wilhart getting hit on the soft nerve, clenched his teeth with a desperate expression to bear the wicked tongue attacks of his sister.

Behind someone like him, a beautiful maid in clean apron dress is standing like a shadow.

「Yes Seria, it must be troubling for you to take care of an idiot like him」

「No, it's an obligation of a maid to take care of her master」

While bowing to the princess of Spada, she added the words of salutation.

Looks like the girl Charlotte cares more about this maid rather than her own brother, Wilhart.

「Please take care of this idiotic brother so he doesn't make trouble for other camping members. Every time he discharges his remarks the glory and grace of Spada goes into decline」

Understood, Wilhart glared at Seria, who said words of acknowledgement, with the eyes that seemed to look at a traitor.

But, he concludes that rather than cutting in there would lead him to getting abused more, so he changes the topic.

「You were saying quest, what is it about?」

Though Charlotte has quick beating hands and bad mouth, but it doesn't change the fact that she is his blood-related sister.

Though he admits her ability in magic, but he is overprotective and worries if she took up on a quest with dangers.

「Sigh, what does it has to do with you——」

「——It's salamander subjugation」

Blocking the statement of Charlotte, the voice of another man told the contents of quest to Wilhart.

「.....Nero, huh」

「Yo, you're the same as always」

Though they are students, but Wilhart is a prince.

For Nero Julius Elrod to talk friendly with him can be either because he too is a prince or it is his innate character.

At any rate, Wilhart and Nero in the truest meaning have same social positions, at the very least they never talk in formal language even in public.

「When you say Salamander, do you mean their nest?」

「Correct, you only have good brain Wilhart」

The ironic smile on the face of Nero with black hair red eyes and mysterious looks can easily capture the hearts of girls.

But, Wilhart is not a girl, and he has seen the beautiful face of this prince of Avalon since childhood, so he surely has been envious of his beauty.

The thing he is more concerned about is the contents of the quest for entering the nest of salamanders, the strongest monsters in the Galahad Mountain Range.

「Even though you are rank 4, but isn't that dangerous?」

Though his pompous tone didn't go, but the joke surely did.

「Don't worry, no matter who is against us we will somehow get through it」

In front the Nero's line of sight, stood the prideful party members.

Heaven-sent child of sword Galbraith, 『Magical Eyes』 of Hydra, Wilhart, being in the same school year, knows about their strength.

Of course, he only knows about their strength and has no familiarity with any of them.

After being called as 「I can't remember the names of weak people」 by Galbraith and 「Creep」 by Hydra, the conversations stopped forever.

It wasn't a line to be said to the royalty of the country they serve to, but Wilhart isn't an intolerant man who would get angry with just that much. He is more or less near good-for-nothing.

Keeping it aside, but indeed it's the 『Wing Road』 of Nero with every member strong then it's possible they won't be outdone by salamanders in 『Salamander's nest』 too.

But, still he worries.

「Don't put us as together with weak you, brother. Even without having you worry about us, we can defeat something like salamanders easily」

「.....I see」

But still, if Charlotte is in this mood, it would be wasting time to warn her.

「If you get hurt, do get Princess Nell to heal you」

That's why he wants Charlotte to come back without getting hurt anywhere, he said something between those lines.

「You don't have to tell me that much.....huh, where is Nell?」

Charlotte surveys the surroundings by turning around, but she wasn't able to see 5 members with her golden eyes.

「Hm. Ah, this always happens if you take eyes off her」

Good Grief, Nero shrugged his shoulders.

Wilhart recalls that his sister, first princess of Avalon, Nell, always seems to roam aimlessly here and there.

And she also has the combo of poor direction sense, it's not bearable for the people to search for her, and there hasn't, even once, the pattern where she went and returned back on her own.

「Isn't she again being helpful to someone somewhere?」

Due to her very kind heart, she can't abandon a person who is troubled.

That goes the same for people not from her country, and she interacts with them without any division, she's more like a saint rather than princess.

[ET: Saint the female version here. Not the male sage/saint version]

However, though she extends a helping hand, the things that clumsy girl can do are only limited to her peerless rare talent in healing others.

「I've been telling her to stop because it's dangerous, but she never hears me」

Seems like the prince of Avalon too is troubled by the unreasonability of his sister.

Of course, the girl called Nell doesn't give a drop kick all of a sudden, nor call her brother idiot, she has a personality fit for princess and is lovely.

Wilhart always prays that the tomboyish Charlotte learns even a part of her lady-like character.

「Oh, rare things happen too, she has returned」

Maybe he sensed her presence, Nero turned back, and there stood, well talk of the devil, the first princess of Avalon, Nell Julius Elrod.

Wilhart though has no ability to sense presences he could still make out her figure even if he looks her from far.

That is because she has rare characteristic of having white wings on her back while having the body of a human.

Nell having the figure of angels drawn in ancient paintings rushes over the crows of her party members while smiling and swaying her big breasts which are quite not suitable for someone her age.

「Oh, isn't this Prince Wilhart, what a coincidence」

While feeling the feels of healing without any use of healing magic, Wilhart exchanged salutations.

「Geez, where were you loitering?」

Nero whines in a fed-up voice.

「I'm sorry, big brother, but I have a really wonderful meeting」

「Hmm, so you were helpful to that person?」

「Yes! I was able to help an apprentice magician who was standing still because his horse wasn't hearing him!」

What a heart-warming story this is.

However being touched by this goddess-like princess, that apprentice magician might become the new member of this princess' fan club.

Thinking like that, only pity for making another man insane comes in the heart.

「Well the members are all here, let's go to the nest」

Charlotte almost steps forward in high spirits while brimming with motivation,

「Wait, Charlotte」

But Wilhart stopped her.

「What?」

Though she says in a displeased voice, but due to the fact she didn't ignore him means that there was not much cracks between in their relationship as siblings.

「In these northern parts, recently stronger monsters have started appearing near the foot of mountains」

「So what? It be because of change in territories, right?」

Though they are monsters, they are a part of wilderness.

Even inside dungeons the loitering routes or appearing places changes everyday.

Even more so in hills and fields, it's not rare for the inhabiting place to change at times.

「No, it seems to be the case for all monsters」

But, it is too much suspicious if all the monsters of that area have a change in the territories.

「Maybe because salamanders are too strong, the other strong ones near the summit are avoiding them」

Not only limited to salamander, but if a really strong monster appears, the other monsters in the surroundings run away from that place.

And, if it leads to all monsters changing the places then it means the monster is a rogue with lot of power.

Such dangerous monsters rarely are seen by other people.

「So that means I'm now more interested in fighting the salamanders」

「No, isn't that 'more' troublesome」

Hearing Wilhart's story Nero and Charlotte were contrastive, but they all left the place while increasing their guard.

The elegant bow Nell did completely deleted the bad image those two left on Wilhart's mind.

「It would be great if they come back safely, sigh」

「Wil-sama」

While Wilhart is worrying for her sister's safety, Seria comes near him quietly and calls out to him meekly.

「What?」

「The descending of monsters also means that, Wil-sama, your outdoor training is going to be more severe, so before worrying about others think about yourself」

「!?」 [ET: Let me rephrase what he said there. He said: What the **FUCjoigeroiehr oioerhofohh KjgfhhioWyr\$^&\$^\$*&\$#^%^**]

I leave it to you if something happens, help me then, the young prince of Spada requests his maid in a pitiable manner, then he left the Dacia village while praying to the black gods for not letting monsters attack him.

CHAPTER 196

CURSED BLACK HAIR

Long long time ago, in the mansion of a certain noble lived a long black-haired maid.

Her hair was supple and glossy, based on just hair they were the best, but they reached her ankle and the bangs always covered more than half of her face, which made her look creepy.

A maid serving her master, wouldn't be forgiven to let them grow that long even if they were beautiful.

But she had been forgiven to have those tremendous super long hair.

Because, though she wore the apron dress for maids, she was in fact the bodyguard of her master.

That bodyguard maid had the extra magic to use her hair in any way she wanted.

She was the descent of a certain assassination clan, the result of crossbreeding experiments in ancient times was that she could activate extra magic and limit the power of Hydra to her hair.

[ET: Piece of advice here, the hydra family is something else this hydra is something else. Family is called 「ハイドラ (Haidora)」 and and this whatever is called 「ヒュドラー (Hyudora)」. One is monster (latter) and one is not related to living things (former). For more info, well read ancient crap and some computer books]

Her black hair with the power of Hydra would turn into impregnable defense at extreme times and also entangle the hands and legs of the enemy to stop any sort of attack, the girl with her hair demonstrated great talent as bodyguard.

However, the reason she was currently hired as a bodyguard for a son of a certain noble wasn't because of this ability,

「Oh, you have quite a nice face there. If I'm going to be followed by a bodyguard all day long then a girl like you would be best!」

But, it was because of such a vulgar reason.

Judging from the standard basis for choosing her was enough to see that her master, the son of noble was a lewd man.

He liked women more if compared to getting meal three times a day, rather than exploiting taxes, or getting honor from king, he liked making love with women more.

He made love with many women, like, daughter of a wealthy noble, gentle maid, voluptuous high-class prostitute, innocent farmer's daughters, chaste married woman—if he liked the appearance, forgetting the social positions he would lay hands on that girl.

Therefore, even though the black-haired woman was an elite assassin raised by an assassination clan, he would choose her based on her appearance and that so without any hesitation.

And he didn't need to persuade her, the night she was hired, she opened her body as per her master's orders.

However, the man who liked being cruel while making love, he was displeased with the woman's attitude of giving her body so easily.

There that man took decided to make this expressionless mannequin-like maid actually love him from her heart.

The man used every viles he had known from experience from various women, and he approached near her.

Between that, some man with displeasure with the tax rates of territory attacked him.

It was her first task as bodyguard, with an expressionless face, she protected her master and killed the ruffian by breaking his neck with her hair.

The figure of maid killing the man without even having a chance to know what happened would be fearful, but the man got worked up because this woman was worthy to fall in the depths of hell.

[ET: For readers who read the TL's of Nikubenki (r-18) novel, would understand the meaning offalling in depths of hell (pleasure?)]

After that, somewhat time passed.

The man whispered about love to the maid, and gave pleasure to her by embracing her body.

Once again, on some day on new assassins came aiming for man's life.

The maid once protected the man and strangled all assassins to death.

But at that time, the arm of man was scratched by an arrow that attacked him from a blind spot, though small he was injured.

The man sharply saw that the moment he was injured, the expression of maid changed as though her face had expression.

The man understood that all the work he did till now was not useless, the frozen heart of woman has started to thaw though little by little but surely.

After that, the man approached the maid in more high spirits.

Then, the time the third attack came,

「Master.....I'm scared.....to lose you」

The maid was worrying over the safety of man while crying.

After several from hiring, the hard efforts of the man finally bore fruit.

From then the maid was loved by the man without being expressionless but with innocent reactions of a lovestruck maiden.

But that life didn't last even a year and marked its end.

「I'm getting married」

Marriage, yes, the engagement of that man was decided.

If he was getting the bride from family of same status or lower status, then he wouldn't have stopped on laying his hands on maid or other women.

However the bride was not only of higher status but was the daughter of royalty, the princess of the country he served.

No matter how much difference in positions, having blood of royalty was necessary, the difference in power was like heaven and earth.

It wasn't girl coming to his house but he going to the bride's house, the man wouldn't face against people with more status and power and could only agree to what his bride, the princess said.

Hence, the princess who was to be betrothed to him,

「Dismiss that creepy bodyguard」

Said as such, so he had no choice but to dismiss the maid who had saved him 3 times.

「I'm sorry, but our love will remain for eternity——」

The man bids farewell with sugared words.

The man was a playboy, so he left the woman he was playing with, with those words that would leave no future troubles.

And this time too he thought, that their forbidden relationship of master and maid would clearly end.

「I wil.....I-I will protect you.....Master!」

But the moment that black-haired woman twined around his body, the man sensed it.

「I don't know what princess and all that is.....but that woman is.....an assassin trying to break us apart」

He perceived that she was different from the girls he had been playing with, she was twisted.

「But it's fine.....this time too.....I will protect you.....」

The black hair covered her and the man inside like a coffin made of steel.

It didn't take much time for the other people living in mansion to know the abnormality, they all immediately understood the bodyguard maid went mad and attacked her master.

Naturally, to save the man, private army of the noble launched an attack.

By that point of time, the coffin enlarged in size and became to the size of that of a cage.

The defense made by her black hair couldn't be broken no matter how many times blades cut or tried to pierce it.

They were able to cut some fibres of hair, but they were immediately regenerated.

Even so, the soldiers didn't give up and kept on attacking, without choosing any way they just tried to destroy it.

1 month passed after that.

In the mansion of noble, the jail of black hair was still enshrined.

She didn't even once opened the defense and 'protected' her master from every sort of attacks by capturing him in the jail of eternity.

Like that, one day the defense made by her black hair vanished maybe because she used up all her strength.

All that remained was the corpses of a man and woman wrapped in between the black hair as though they were embracing each other.

The man had an expression of despair on his face, the woman had a kind expression as though to comfort the man.

A worker told that the bunch of black hair in his hand was the hair of the girl who went through all that.

Even after the dying, the black hair didn't lose its glossiness and looked beautiful, even if the story of bodyguard was a lie, it doesn't change the fact that this black hair had some sort of magical power stored into it.

Then the worker, made gloves by knitting the black hair.

The worker wore it the moment he finished making it, and,

「I will protect master」

Heard that voice.

The next morning, the corpse of worker wrapped in black hair and strangled to death was found in the workshop.

Ever since then, every person who wore these gloves was killed in the same way.

At some time it was called as 『BlackHair Curse 「Coffin」』 and every person feared it.

It was unknown how many people had died before it was sealed as a dangerous cursed item.

Like that even after people stopped reaching her, she was still waiting, for her new master to appear.

Those cursed gloves,

「Noisy, shut up and listen to me!」

Are right now silent due to blackening and fitting just perfectly in my both hands.

It almost feels like they're part of my skin.

The only fault is, sometimes the shout of a woman shouting 「Master~」 would echo inside my brain.

Well it's fine, this is normal for a cursed item.

These gloves which feel really great to wear and are made from the black hair of a lovestruck maiden named as 『Black Hair Curse 「Coffin」』, is a gift from Lily.

I'm too scared to hear the price because she said this was brought from the high-class shop of Mordred Weapon Company within the noble area.

I don't know how she used a shop in noble area, seems like the secrets of Lily have increased in just one day.

Keeping that aside, let's talk about gloves.

This is not just gloves which feel good to wear but also have a great effect hidden inside them. This isn't called cursed item for no reason.

「Great. With this, the strength of 『Anchor Hand』 is more than double」

You will understand that if you see the scene in front of my eyes.

Within the mountain forest in the northern part of Galahad Mountain Range, the Doltos, having a gigantic body like an elephant, had its movements sealed by my 『Anchor Hand』 wrapping around it.

The wire-like 『Anchor Hand』 would not seem different at a glance, but looking more properly, it could be seen it is made by many strands of hair bundling up together to form a wire.

Apparently, this 『Black Hair Curse 「Coffin」』, these gloves, have an effect of enhancing the strength of magic which restrain other people.

Furthermore, though I haven't used it during battle, but it also enhances the defense magic.

The reason Lily gifted me this is because it enhances the defense force and binding forces.

Compared to other experimental subjects, I'm not much specialised in defensive magic, and 『Anchor Hand』 is a magic I can rely on, it played an active role in fight with Cyprus and Ai as well.

『Black Hair Curse 「Coffin」』 has no firepower, but it supports in other sides, as an equipment this is an ideal one which implements all the effects from just being gloves.

Indeed Lily, this the best choice, completely different from the White Punpun robe I bought for her.

Well then, it's not the time to be always getting impressed by the ability of 『Black Hair Curse 「Coffin」』.

I'm not binding the Doltos on whim, but capturing it alive is the quest this time.

「I will open it's mouth, so shoot the anaesthetic ball」

「Yes!」

「Roger」

As if I'm controlling a marionette, several 『Anchor Hand』 extend from my hand and wrap around Doltos' mammoth like face with a long nose and teeth.

I reel in the black wires which have dug into the upper jaw and lower jaw, finally my power surpasses the power of jaws and I open up the mouth of Doltos.

「Eii」

「Here we go」

The two shoot the softball-size ball within the mouth of Doltos while raising enjoying voices.

This ball is commonly known as anaesthetic ball, though it does not has immediate effects but it can intensely paralyse the body of monsters.

It won't take effect upon hitting the body, but only upon intake of it like right now, in other words it's a paralysis poison capsule.

After silencing the monster with anaesthetic ball, the capture is completed, after that we have inform guild by the bird for transportation uses (loan), and give the monster to the retrieval team which would be dispatched by guild.

「Then I will start installing the binding item」

「I leave it up to you, and I think it would be bound for a while, so you don't have be in a hurry」

It takes a while for the anaesthetic ball to take effect, in that time if not binded up, then there is a risk that monster would run away.

And, even if the anaesthetic ball is working, one needs to be on guard and keep it bind up using a thick rope.

And it would take place for retrieval team to come here, during that time it is needed to maintain the prey captured.

Quests like these are not easy with just defeating monsters and showing their body parts for proof. These are really troublesome

That's why the levels of difficulty changes in subjugation and capturing quests, even if they are of same monsters.

「Seeing the Doltos, somehow you start feeling hungry, right?」

「You're right, it is really tasty」

While chatting idly like that, the first capturing quest of Element Master was completed.

CHAPTER 197

ATTACK ON CAMP

5th of Red Flame month, the second night came after camping in the Galahad Mountains for outdoor training.

「Fumu, then we will take the heavy responsibility of being Nighthawk Searcher」

In simple words, Wilhart offers to change the duty of guarding during night with another member of the team.

「N-no, we cannot let Wilhart-sama do something like that—」

The male student tried to gently reject the offer of Wilhart with an annoyed expression, but

「Fuahahaha! You don't have to fear, with me guarding, no monster will come near use. I will let you people sleep without any worries till tomorrow morning!」

The male member was not able to retort that 'If you make that much noise, the sleeping members will wake up and monsters will come near'

Though he is like this, he is a prince.

Because both are students he hadn't said that it is noisy, but he still hesitates to snap.

If he showed any rude behaviour, then after others would distance themselves, of course, the opposite can also happen,

「Go and sleep nicely, like a baby being held by its mother」

THis prince with a personality this painful wouldn't become center of state power in future, this is something that had been predicted several years before among the nobles.

The Spada royal family which respects martial ways has a child like Wilhart who has failing marks in both magic and martial skills, no one thinks he would be able to

surpass his brother Aisenhart to become the successor, in the first place no one would want it to happen.

The next generation of Spada would be lead by Aisenhart, Wilhart only needs to live as a spare inside a neat inner palace with women so that royal lineage doesn't end and also that he doesn't become a hindrance to Aisenhart.

In short, there is no one who would try to court Wilhart even when he has no chance of standing on the big stage in history neither has any power, and among the elite cadets that trend is strikingly obvious.

「Sigh.....well then I will leave it to you」

The second prince Wolhart is a really displeasing existence to elite cadets with no advantage and courting and a great disadvantage upon acting rude with him.

Frankly put, they were all annoyed.

「Fumu, leave it to us, Fuhahahahaha!」

This tone only increased the annoyance.

Still everyone would be somewhat respectful and no one would bully him.

And the person himself doesn't do anything about this behaviour, that's why he is able to laugh it off today too. Wilhart is the only happy-go-lucky man in this world.

「.....」

Upon becoming alone, even Wilhart becomes quiet.

The little bonfire illuminates the surroundings slightly.

The brook is flowing quietly, the tent is placed on the riverside, so with no obstructions within surroundings it is easy to stand guard there.

Of course, there is a thickly grown forest some metres forward, but it is much better to not put the tent there.

But, the bodyguard maid, Seria is hiding somewhere within that dark thick forest.

Though Wilhart has become 17 years old, an adult, but because of his low fighting power he is not allowed to be alone without a bodyguard.

However getting help of bodyguard within this outdoor training would not be good.

Hence, she is treated as ‘not present there’, and she is in hiding while watching over her master

「.....Hm」

At that time, the sound of rustling is heard from the forest in front.

The guard needs to be more aware of disturbances in forest because if they monster would approach that wouldn’t be the brook side but forest side.

It doesn’t need to be said, within the overgrown forest it is difficult someone approaching, so it is easy to approach without being found out.

Wilhart takes out the normal 『Mithril Rapier』 which he has named 『Vaiceschveato』 from his waist and at the same time glared inside the forest where the sound is coming out from.

「Who is there, I know you are there」

Though he knows there is someone, but he doesn’t know if it’s a wild animal, or monster or a human.

And he doesn’t know the numbers, Wilhart has no sixth sense or magic to know it or even skill to sense presence.

Though his tone says that already knows the opponent is there, but until he confirms it is a monster, there is no need to wake up the members, he judged.

If he kept waking them up hearing every sound, then they won’t be able to take rest.

「You can come out」

The sounds from inside the forest grow more loud, and deliberately emphasize that someone is hiding there.

But he still doesn't what is there, hence, he imagines the worst case scenario of a dangerous monster coming out and in a second the feeling of stress increases for Wilhart.

「Y-You can c-come out.....」

The wariness and tension rises, though he said the same line from before, but the nuance has become a lot weak.

In the endless feeling time, Wilhart keeps his whole attention to the forest,

SFX: Bashari (*splash)

But the reason he could respond to that sound of water can only be said due to good luck.

Hearing sound of water means that something has appeared in the river behind him.

Before reaching that conclusion, Wilhart, reflectively turned back.

「What!?」

There were 2 bears—no, it was rank 1 monster Punpun with rabbit ears growing on head, and small and stout body, a figure which nobody would forget upon seeing once.

The 2 Punpun reach the riverside and now the distance between Wilhart and them is only 4 metres.

He understood that these two came from behind while he was completely paying attention to forest and at the same time he noticed these two throwing 'something' towards him.

The thing thrown was about the size of a human head, without knowing it what it was it had landed on the ground.

「Waaah!?」

The place it landed was the bonfire, the only light source in the dark night.

The sound of water splashing, and sizzle sound from the cooling of fire reaches his ears.

It didn't land on the bonfire by coincidence, but it was aimed there.

But before reaching that conclusion, he falls into panic due to the sudden blackout.

His eyes had gotten used to the light of bonfire, so if the light gets lost suddenly it's natural he won't be able to see anything.

After some time, under this cloudless night sky with full moon out, he might be able to see somewhat, but

SFX: GAAAAOOOO!

The monster which has already approached in front won't wait for the eyes to be used to black.

「U-Uaaaawwwwaaaaaaahhhh!？」

reflexively he swings the sword in his hand.

Naturally, he isn't able to feel the sensation of cutting something down and only cuts through empty space.

Within the ignorant night, Wilhart had been prepared for death, but

「—ضوء شمعة ضيء لاذ اءة —Torch」

With the sudden dazzling light appearing, he perceived that his fate has yet to exhaust.

「Is it you Seria!？」

「Yes, Wil-sama you Seria is here」

Before he knew it, the maid with beautiful face and green ponytail wearing an apron dress stood besides him.

The 『Torch』's fireball shining in the night sky equally illuminates the figure of Seria holding somewhat large dagger knives in both her hands and the figure of several Punpun.

「T-These many were here.....」

「Not only numbers, they are also pretty regulated and disciplined, no doubt, they are being led by a powerful boss」

Wilhart recalled the lecture about the territories of monsters he took really seriously.

Even among rank 1 monsters, the ones who form a group means the one leading is boss and is strong, or they are special individuals with intelligence due to that the difficulty level is also increased by a rank.

This group of Punpun who diverted the attention of Wilhart, let a detached force approach him from behind and closed the only light source for stopping his movements, makes them a rank 2 equal monster.

「They're not the opponent the current Wil-sama can stand against」

「Guu.....」

The strength of Wilhart is on the level of somehow winning against rank 1 monster, Goblin only in one-on-one battles.

Even without a boss, if they attack in group he wouldn't stand a chance.

「No, but, right now we have comrades we can rely on! Wake up the brave comrades, the time for battle has come!!」

When Wilhart raises his voice, the 4 camp members who have already waken up from the sounds jump out of tent as if there asses had caught fire.

「Waaaaah, this is gonna be bad!?」

「Don't fucking kid with me!」

「Run!」

「Oi come on fast, this way!」

The 4 reliable comrades, run with only their clothes on, and plotted an escape plan.

Due to the dazzling running style, even the Punpun surrounding the camp ignore them.

「Huh, Eh, Oo~ii, You guys.....」

Wilhart raised his voice to stop them with an astonished expression, but the 4 had already disappeared on the other side of dark night.

「Great teamwork this is」

「Y-You people.....you're losers who leave the captain of your team and plot to escape before me, you guys don't deserve to be knights of Spada!!」

Wilhart shouts while holding sword in a bent back posture seeming he would fall at any time.

「It was unfortunate you had to meet with strong Punpun, now it is decided for you to take supplementary classes for outdoor training, Wil-sama」

The Punpun encircle Wilhart and Seria, but they only show vigilance while maintaining a distance and don't attack.

Wilhart is having cold sweat on his face without knowing when the curtain to battle would drop, but on the contrast, Seria is keeping her cool expressionless face.

After glaring at each other for sometime, the sound of rustling comes from the forest and a bigger Punpun appears on the riverside.

「Mu, so he's the boss?」

This Punpun has a large body both vertically and horizontally, its height reaching 3 metres and its one eye is injured making it a perfect one-eyed boss.

The boss starts glaring contest with Seria.

But that is soon concluded, the boss then raises its voice as if to order its subordinates.

Then taking distance Seria won't be able to reach them, they start taking out the items and everything from camp.

「Ah, the food is.....」

「The outdoor training is already a fail for you, there's no harm in letting them take it」

The Punpun took each and everything like food, or items that won't help monsters at all.

During the time everything was being plundered, it only stared at Seria paying attention to her movements and it didn't even move a single step.

The next moment when he thought it would take back the crows of Punpun,

SFX: GaaOOOooooOOOOOooo!!

A loud roar resounded.

That howl is that would let people far away shake in fear, a really sinister and fiendish howl.

「O-Oi, what is it this t-time!?」

Wilhart jumped to cling to Seria due to fear, even the Punpun working diligently showed clear fear.

They dropped down everything they were carrying and froze on the spot.

SFX: Gaooo—nnn!

The boss cries, then the Punpun threw everything they had plundered and ran away deep into forest in full speed.

「H-Hey, Seria.....doesn't it feel dangerous?」

Wilhart returned to his previous state and asked something miserable, but Seria didn't make fun of it.

「Wil-sama, let's make a run for it, right now」

Seria gripped Wilhart's hand and ran with the same force the Punpun ran.

Seeing Seria serious after many years, Wilhart understood the danger of things.

Apparently, the owner of that fiendish howl is the strong monster who can even make this Seria choose the option to run.

But however, because of that, Wilhart stopped moving in his tracks.

「Wait! If we run away what will happen to them!?」

Them is the 4 members who got scared of attack of monsters and ran away.

Although he hates them somewhat, but not to the extent that he wants them dead.

On the contrary, forgiving them while smiling would be the right thing to do as a royalty.

*[ET: I can't believe there are good people like him. *sob*]*

「I cannot leave them alone」

Please, save them.

Wilhart bows his head down like he did when he found an adventurer whom he named as Nightmare Berserker.

But, the answer this time,

「I'm sorry, Wil-sama, but I won't listen to that order」

Were the clear words of rejection.

He couldn't speak foolish things like *You dare defy your master's order.*

The live of her master second prince of Spada, or the lives of 4 who ran on their own accord, it is obvious she took the first one.

Wilhart understood it, and could only run while his hand is being gripped by Seria.

For running away from the owner of that fiendish howl within the Galahad Mountains.

CHAPTER 198

ENCOUNTER WITH THE RED DESPAIR

The 4 management class students stopped their legs while gasping for breath.

“haa.....haa.....man, I was really scared.”

“We were totally surrounded, that was damn dangerous.”

“By the way, will that delusional prince be fine if we leave him like that?”

“Seria-chan was there so he should be fine. Those ugly monsters should be easy stuff for her.”

Maybe because they were able to safely escape, the 4 of them were laughing.

They felt absolutely no sense of guilt at the fact that they had left one of their members back there.

But, considering that nobles were born with a status that claimed that they were above normal people, it couldn't be helped if they'd be happy with saving just themselves after all.

“What do we do now?”

One of the students asked while surveying the surroundings.

This place looked the same as their camp, i.e., it was by the river.

After jumping out of the tents, they had run directly upstream.

Rather than running inside a forest with dense trees and undulated landscape, it was simply easier to run by the river which had no obstacles.

“Ah, I do have a sword, we'll make do somehow.”

Though they ran away with whatever they were wearing, they still had their basic equipments.

“That’s true, let’s return at our own pace.”

“But I’ve had enough of [Air Walker], kay?”

Though they were scared by being suddenly attacked by a group of monsters, their abilities remained the same which were suitable for someone who had cleared the supposedly super difficult entrance exam for the management course.

They were well learned in both magic and Martial skills of lower level.

But still, they were not ‘skilled’ with it like actual adventurers. They had simply been taught these while they were young under the guidance of a specialised instructor, similar to a sport.

They can fire [Ignis Sagita] as well use [Slash]. But whether they could use them in actual battle, the answer would be definitely NO.

That’s why they were scorned as the ‘Spare Class’.

“We came pretty far away. I can’t even see the camp.”

“I think we travelled about 1 km?”

They were literally fast at running away with the use of [Air Walker].

Though their skill was barely enough to activate it, but as long as the movement-type Martial Skill was activated, they’d still be much faster than a normal human’s running speed.

That’s why, they had been able to instantly break through the encirclement of the Punpuns.

Though the riverside with lots of stones couldn’t be called a good foothold but since it didn’t have obstacles like branches in the forest, one could run away faster as long as he stays careful with his footing.

Blessed with a good terrain, they had been able to run away safely till here with [Air Walker].

Though, the fact that they had lost their breath while just using [Air Walker] like this, it was obvious that it was useless in an actual battle.

“Say, it should be fine to return now right?”

“No, they might still be fighting. Let’s wait a bit more.”

They didn’t know the situation at the camp from here. They could only rely on their intuition to decide when the battle would be over.

“Couldn’t that troublesome delusional prince just die already?”

“If he does, then I’ll hire Seria-chan.”

“Hah, I’ll hire her.”

After that, the four got fired up while talking about what kind of services they would ask for after hiring her.

But, coincidentally, it was only an instant but,

“Giyahaha——ha?”

One of the boys laughing at a vulgar gag realized a giant black shadow in his vision.

“Ha, what.....is that?”

“Aah?”

The other three also looked in the same direction as the boy who had a frozen expression.

There, a giant beast was standing.

Its giant frame was over 6m but they didn’t know just for how long that beast had been silently standing near the river over there.

Its blackish fur was difficult to see in the night but the deep crimson fur at its arms and chest could be clearly seen as if it was a bonfire.

Especially, the two long and narrow ears above its head looked like swaying flames.

"That's a monster, right?"

"It's fucking big.....isn't this dangerous?"

Due to those ears, they ended up associating it with the earlier Punpuns.

But, the impression it gave was completely different from them.

Arms as thick as a large tree, it's swelling muscles could be seen even from under the thick fur it had.

Especially, its sharp and ferocious face that looked like a mix between a wolf and a lion was nothing like the comical appearance of that rank 1 monster.

The giant monster that had suddenly appeared was simply staring at those four with its devilish red eyes.

"haha, doesn't that look a bit impossible to beat?"

"Yup, impossible, definitely impossible."

"O, okay, let's run away."

"Yeah."

The 4 who quickly came to the same conclusion began to focus their magical energy to use [Air Walker] like before.

At that moment,

—*gujari*

That kind of dull sound came to the ears of the 3 students.

Yes, only 3 of them heard it. The remaining one,

"Ha.....eh?"

Had disappeared after becoming a red blotch on the riverside.

The student who was supposed to be standing there had disappeared and in its place, a big black and red tree was standing there.

No, that wasn't a tree, it was the arm of the monster.

"Eh, why.....?"

All 3 of them unintentionally switched their gazes repeatedly from the place where the monster was standing and the place next to them.

The place where the monster was standing disappeared like a mirage, and now,

"Ah, a, waaaaaaaaahhh!!?"

Was definitely, actually, standing beside them.

Finally, after all this time, they realized what had happened.

One of their colleagues had been completely smashed from the head by the arm of this monster and had become a compressed pile of flesh and blood.

"Uaaaaah!!"

While shouting, trying to run away from this nightmarish monster, the three instinctively jumped away from there.

Because one of them had tried moving back without thinking, his leg twisted and fell down.

One had quickly jumped away and created some distance between them.

The other one had been the only one to have miraculously succeeded in activating [Air Walker] and jumped away into the air by kicking the earth.

But, this one who should have been the most successful in getting away had his body stopped in mid-air.

"Nggunn~!?"

Basically, before he could completely fly into the air, the monster had grabbed him with its arm.

The monster was firmly holding onto the boy's lower half. On its right arm, a crimson crystal was glowing brightly. The two who had not been targeted clearly saw it.

Without minding the gazes of those 2 at all, the monster was completely focused on the one it had captured.

It brought its right arm that had captured the boy near its own head slowly at ease.

He'll be eaten, the other two instantly thought that but reality was different.

He was crushed.

The monster had crushed the boy's body inside its palm.

As if it was squeezing an orange, blood gushed out of its rock-like palm.

The red blood drops slowly disappeared inside the monster's giant mouth.

"Uguu, ooeeeeeeeeeh!"

Even in the dark night, the two who had witnessed this scene somehow puked with the exact same timing.

Their friend who had been conversing with them only a few minutes ago had become a red juice and was disappearing inside a monster's mouth. Seeing such a scene that was nothing less of a nightmare, their sheltered minds as nobles simply couldn't bear with it.

"U, guu, aaaaaaa."

But still, without becoming unable to move, the one who had been successful in running away could be truly considered as well done!

The one who had fallen down there couldn't get up and could only release all kinds of body except blood and simply sit there while crying.

The monster, without trying to chase the one that had run away, turned towards the one who was crying near its legs.

After squeezing out as much blood it could, as if throwing away tasteless food scraps, he threw away the pile of broken bones and flesh.

The dull sound of that landing on the ground as well as the sound of the monster pressing its finger on the boy's leg came at the same time.

But he only heard the sound of his leg's bone breaking. Or maybe, the scream he made as if bursting his throat.

"Gyaaaaah!! St, stop—"

After a gap of a second, once again the monster's finger attacked the boy's body.

This time, it was the left shoulder.

They were not sharp claws that could cut through human flesh by simply touching, it was simply pressing the shoulder with its fingertip.

Pressured by the rocky ground and the tough finger, a body that had been only slightly trained, broke very easily.

Once again, the scream of pain came. Maybe because it found that reaction amusing, the monsters lips twisted into a smile.

The scream that came every time it pushed its finger, the monster attacked the boy's body as if playing on a piano.

But soon, that voice also stopped coming.

It was obvious. Not just every bone in his body, every vital organ needed to sustain life had also been completely pulverised.

Towards the completely broken boy, as if slightly complaining, the monster snorted and turned towards its next prey without eating him.

"haa.....haa.....He, help me.....Help!!"

With shaky footsteps, the last one was running desperately.

But, without activating [Air Walker], he gravely lacked the speed to run away fast with such bad footing.

The monster slightly kicked the ground, no, lightly by its personal standards, the moment the rocks and dust blew away, that black and red giant body was lightly fluttering in the air.

It hadn't flown. It had simply jumped.

But that jump covered enough distance to be considered as flying and instantly turned the distance between it and the student to zero.

Meaning, the monster landed in front of the student.

"Hi, hiiiiiiii!?!"

The avatar of despair appeared once again.

Even while knowing he was no match, he still ended up drawing the mithril sword on his waist.

That blade shone with radiance as if warding off the darkness of the night.

"Ki, ki, I'll kill youuu, I'll kill you, I won't be killed by some mo, mo, monsterrrrr!!"

Seeing that beautiful blade, maybe his fighting spirit came back or he simply gave in to despair, the boy took a stance with the sword.

The next moment, the monster extended its arm casually but the boy couldn't follow even that properly.

While holding his sword, without being able to move even a single bit, he was wrapped by the incoming palm.

In the time span of a second, his death should have been confirmed but the monster suddenly withdrew his hand.

For a second he didn't understand what had happened but he realized that the edge of the mithril sword had grazed the monster's hand and inflicted a small, very small wound.

"ha, hahaha.....it, it worked, it's working!!"

The monster looked at its own palm doubtfully and found the small wound.

That moment,

GAAOOOOOOONN!!

It roared.

That was clearly a roar of anger, a scream of rage.

As the monster roared, the crimson fur stood on its end and its body looked as if it had grown another size.

But, the boy had been unable to see that changed form.

That's because, the moment it had roared, the boy had fallen unconscious while bleeding from his nose and ears. No, because after only a second had passed, the fist of rage had pulverized his body and he had instantly died.

After becoming a red blotch similar to the first victim, it was clearly dead even in the eyes of the monster.

But, the monster's fists didn't stop.

Twice, thrice, the fists that attacked were powerful enough to make the ground tremble and slowly, a crater began to appear.

After that, it continued striking with its fists and let alone corpse, not even a trace of blood remained when the monster finally stopped.

In a matter of time, its red fur returned to normal and its size also lowered to its original. It seems the monster's anger had settled.

As the monster stopped moving, the night returned to its calm where only the sound of the river flowing could be heard.

But the monster picked up a sound much far away from here with its long ears.

"I cannot leave them alone!"

That was without a doubt, a human's voice.

The monster laughed.

It confirmed that there were still preys remaining for tonight.

CHAPTER 199

RANK 5 MONSTER

Wilhart and Seria were running through the thick forest with the shortest route down from mountain without even caring it was night.

The light source was the small glitter of 『Torch』 , it couldn't illuminate more than some metres but under the guidance of Seria they were able to run at a high-pace.

「Paa!」

Seria's arm flashed facing the opposite side of darkness.

Along with the cry, sound of something falling also came.

After running for a few seconds, Wilhart caught the sight of blue corpse of a *Mina Tokage* lying on the ground.

In its head a black knife was stuck, it was killed in just one shot.

Like that, all the low ranked monsters approaching them were eliminated by Seria, so they haven't stopped yet.

「Wil-sama, let's take a shortcut」

Before he could reply, Seria easily took hold of the body of Wilhart though being thin herself.

Even if Wilhart was called as weak child, he had muscles for being able to swing sword and his height too almost reached 180 cms.

The scene of 160 cms tall maid holding him in her arms did seem weird.

However, Wilhart neither got scared of Seria's power nor did he complain for getting held up by her.

That was because, he trusted that the bodyguard cum maid, Seria from the bottom of his heart. [ET: The cum is the latin word here not the english word]

「Please don't speak or you might bite your tongue」

The moment he nodded, both of them jumped towards the slightly-elevated-steep-sloped cliff.

Even while carrying one tall man, Seria ran down without breaking her balance as though she were free falling.

Just like that, in an instant she finished descending and landed on the ground filled with grasses.

Till the moment Wilhart once again put his feet on land, he didn't feel the thing called as shaking.

「Let's go」

「Yeah」

And once again, their escape started.

They hadn't run for much long, but Wilhart was already near the point of having all of his stamina exhausted and would have fallen on the ground while screaming.

But still, he clenched his teeth and kept on running.

With his good brain he had derived that this was the best solution, so he had no reason to complain.

「.....Wil-sama」

Abruptly, Seria stopped.

While gasping painfully, a bad feeling passed through Wilhart's heart.

He knew that she wouldn't stop in place like this for no reason.

「Pant.....Pant.....W-what is it?」

「I will stall it, please run」

He sucked in a breath of cold air, his heartbeat sped up.

What do you mean, don't speak foolish things, fuck that——He had a lot of things to say, but he wasn't able to speak at all.

That was because he understood the intention behind her words though he didn't want to understand.

—شِعْرٌ لَذَّاءٌ ضَيْءٌ شَمْعَةٌ ضَوءٌ『Torch』

Showing her back towards silently standing Wilhart, Seria activated the same magic which had been lightly illuminating the road.

The fireball rose up in the sky like fireworks, and a bright red flower of flame bloomed in the night sky.

That illuminated the surroundings greatly like a glittering chandelier suspended from the ceiling.

Thanks to the new 『Torch』 ,the surroundings became visible and they could finally understand where they were.

He understood that there was a half green vacant land, as though goblins tried to tear open the mountain forest for making a village.

「What!？」

And, in the center of vacant land stood a big-framed monster with black and red hair as though it stood there from the start.

Though he saw the monster for the first time, but immediately perceived that this monster was the reason Punpun ran away and they were too running.

「It's a WrathPun.....」

The person who murmured the name of monster in front of them was not Seria, but Wilhart.

「Do you know it?」

Seria knew the names of monsters not only within the surroundings of Spada, but also the names of all monsters placed in the monster list, even the latest ones.

But, she wasn't some monster maniac, so she wouldn't know the names of all monsters present in the world.

Hence, Wilhart, who even knew a lot about legendary monsters written only in ancient literatures, guessed the right name of this unknown monster.

「It is rare monster which only appears once in every 10 years」

The monster which appeared rarely easily meant that people didn't know about them.

The place they were written was only the specialized books which told the mode of life and discovery of monsters.

Even among the adventurers, only those who do work of information gathering or were studious would have this much knowledge.

And, Wilhart was able to recall the description of a monster in a page of a ecology monograph coinciding with the traits of the monsters standing in front of him.

The name 『WrathPun』 might sound strange, but if one knew its ecology they would easily understand the meaning behind it.

That was because WrathPun was a mutated species that came from Punpun.

Its temper was extremely violent, it goes into a frenzy upon getting even a little stimulus. It attacks the person who gave it stimulus and doesn't stop even after the person becomes a dead corpse. It was a monster pertaining twisted rage.

Hence, it was given the name from the ancient language 『Wrath』 .

But, he didn't have time for telling Seria about its slightly revealed ecology, so Wilhart told her about the most important things only.

「The strength of WrathPun is Rank 5, that isn't someone Seria can beat.....」

The rank 5 monster meant, it had the power of a top-ranked, Rank 5 party, in its single body.

Seria was strong, to the extent she was entrusted the job to guard 2nd Prince of Spada.

But, she didn't have the power rivalling to that of rank 5 party.

「It will be fine, I can buy some time for you to run」

She must've understood it immediately from Wilhart's words that she wouldn't be able to win against that monster.

Even so, Seria declared as though she was just doing her job.

「Ku.....」

Wilhart didn't have words to stop her.

That was because, bodyguards exist only to protect the life of their master.

And Wilhart was the 2nd prince of Spada, not a person who was meant to die, even if he had to let others sacrifice their lives.

The royalty was something like that.

And Wilhart wasn't a child to not understand that, because he was already a 17 years old adult.

But, he wasn't mature to the extent that he could do the act of living while letting his bodyguard die.

「Wil-sama, hurry up」

In the words Seria, he sensed somewhat impatience.

In this situation where nothing could be done, he didn't even have time to be troubled.

「D-damn it.....Seria.....」

And, Wilhart finally made his mind, and tried to leave the words of farewell to Seria whom he had gotten familiar with.

It was at that time.

「『Anchor Hand』」

Numerous black tentacles extend from somewhere and twined around the body of WrathPun standing in the center of vacant land.

Just what happened here? Before he could even think that question, the situation changed rapidly.

「---الجدار لمنع واسع ذو طاق على صخرة---『Terra Wall Defan』」

The Wrath Pun got covered behind the wall of stone, no the prison of stone which rose from below its feet while leaving space as to not interfere with the tentacles.

And, in the next moment,

「---يُطلق حطم ذجوم تلاق---『Meteor Strike』」

A magic circle of white light formed itself above Wrath Pun.

By the time they both understood that the magic system was completely different from model magic, the effect of magic circle activated.

WrathPun was bound up by tentacles, captured in the prison of stone, and from above its head the mass of rainbow-colored light downpoured.

The things just happened in an instant, and Wilhart and Seria were only able to look at it absentmindedly from the start to end.

CHAPTER 200

THE FIRST TRIAL

The night watch is completely my work.

In the 『Beginner Set』 I bought in Irz village, there was a tent included. Right now, Lily and Fiona are sleeping within it as if they were sisters.

This is absolutely not some sort of favourable treatment towards them because they are cute.

Fiona is a pure human, different from me, who has an excessively tough body.

As the theory of adventurers' says, it is natural and important for letting the members of magician class rest as much as possible.

And Lily has a child body, so she needs even more rest.

Lily is the strongest person in Element Master, but that comes with restricted time when she goes into her original form, in other words, her power is a lot unstable.

Even the little Lily is quite high leveled from adventurers' perspectives, but there is always a need for her to be in top condition for being able to return to her original form. 『Queen Beryl』 is not an omnipotent item which won't give any fatigue to user upon using its powers.

So like that, tonight too, I'm guarding in the night, alone.

We have chosen the center of an open vacant land as our camp ground, while looking at the bonfire burning besides me, the time passes silently.

Though it's not for killing time, but I'm improving and developing my black magic.

I have a user-friendly thing called 『Black Hair Curse 「Coffin」』 so, I'm planning a more powerful and efficient magic formula for 『Anchor Hand』 .

The reason new ideas keep on coming to me can be because I'm clear-headed, or the black-haired maid in the gloves is supporting me.

I will be able to complete it by morning, the moment I thought something that much positive, I sensed some presence.

I wasn't that much sure about, it was more like intuition. I raise my head up and look towards the interior of dense forest in front of me.

「What is this feeling.....」

I am more sensitive to presences and magical power compared to ordinary people.

If there is hostility or bloodlust, so no matter if it is human or monster I can sense them. This feeling is something I had gotten familiar during the maneuvering experiments.

But, the 'presence like thing' I am sensing right now, doesn't relate to any feeling I have sense before, but is more strange.

For ascertaining the identity of that thing, I survey my surroundings more attentively.

In the next moment, a change occurred.

「.....It's shining?」

Thanks to my nocturnal eyes, I saw a small red light deep in the forest.

Though it is small, but it isn't some hallucination, that is clearly being reflected in my eyes.

By the time I recognized it as mysterious red light, single prediction passed through my head.

For confirming I close my right eye, and the red light still is present like before.

But when I close the left eye, yes, the 'eye of god' given to me by Mia, that red light vanished as if a candle light just got blown out.

「So there is the trial, eh?」

I muttered, but the self-proclaimed god who appears anywhere at any time didn't appear before me this time and neither answered my question.

But, even without getting an reply from that child, I'm already half-convinced that the 'trial' for obtaining divine protection is waiting in place with red light.

Now, what to do in this case? I don't even have to think, the answer is already out.

「Fiona」

「Fuuaii, what happenshed Kurono-shan?」

I call out while facing Tent and Fiona replies immediately, though in voice that sounds half-awake.

「Hurry up and—」

The moment I was about to say 'come out here',

SFX: GaaOoooooOOOOOoo!!

An intense, fiendish and sinister howl roared in the stillness of night.

But with that one howl, I understood.

That the master of this howl is more stronger than any monster we have fought till now.

And also, that the subjugation of this monster is the trial given to me.

From the moment we heard the howl which might have resounded in the whole Galahad Mountain Range, our movements increased their pace.

I didn't have to explain, but Lily and Fiona immediately understood that a strong monster has appeared in this vicinity.

I get rid of bonfire, sunk the tent in 『Shadow Gate』 and now the preparations for departing are done.

When I explained the gist of subjugating monsters we haven't seen before for completing the trials,

「We were increasing our rank for fighting strong monsters, so we are fortunate that it came to us by itself」

「Lily will work hard!」

I got their agreement with immediate reply.

I questioned myself for a second that if it was alright for my comrades to help me in killing the monster, but then I realized that thinking this isn't going to be much of help.

Anyway, I'm still half-suspicious about acquisition of divine protection, so rather than being suspicious of this and that it is more important to increase the party's experience.

「And so, do you know where this monster is?」

Normally, I wouldn't have known.

For following monster outside of vision range needs the use of special magic, which neither me, Lily and Fiona have learnt.

But, this time 'god will tell us', that thing will work.

「Yeah, just follow me」

The red luminous point is still being reflected in my left eye.

Now, in front of the light,

「.....There is nothing」

There wasn't even the shadow of monster let alone its figure.

I watch the point where the red light vanished while hiding in the shade of tree. There is only a strangely open vacant land full of overgrown weed.

Now this damn embarrassing, I was wrong, the moment I thought that, it appeared.

Instead of appearing it should be more like it came falling down. Before I knew it, the more than 5 metres tall monster stood in the center of vacant land.

「Wow, that guy is going to be troublesome」

It's not like I got scared looking at its fiendish appearance of black and red hair.

The thing I find dangerous is not that, but the fact that this guy appeared without any sound or presence even when it is having that big body.

I can understand looking at it once only that it has more power than that minotauros zombie and it's unhurried agility is like that of an assassin dancing in the darkness of night.

With just that much I can understand this monster that this monster is lot more powerful than a rank 3 monster which can be insta-killed by Lily.

「It's a monster I've never seen」

Fiona, standing besides me, says that calmly.

「I too haven't seen it, have you Lily?」

Lily too swings her head while standing near my legs.

Apparently, this monster is a first sight for everyone.

Now then how should we defeat it, the instant I thought that, shadows of two people came springing out in the vacant land where the monster is waiting.

「There were adventurers there?」

「Shouldn't it be more like they were being chased」

The two had a small 『Torch』 illuminating their surroundings, so even Fiona and Lily saw them clearly.

One tall-thin man is wearing a black blazer and red mantle, the outfit of elite cadets which Simon told me.

The monocle on his nervous-struck face is really impressive.

The other one is a perfect maid wearing the apron dress really stylishly. She is also showing a nervous expression.

However, she entered first while guiding the man behind her and holding dagger knife in both her hands, so she isn't just some normal maid but an bodyguard just like the girl stuffed inside this 『Black Hair Curse 「Coffin」』.

Incidentally, her well-ordered face is more like an older sister type rather than a teen girl.

「Are they the nobles who love to play being an adventurer?」

So optimistic, right, those bitter words come out her Fiona's frank mouth which doesn't twist words.

Well, from the perspective of a proper adventurer existences like them aren't good.

「But, I cannot bear to leave them」

Before I knew it, the maid activated more 『Torch』 es, and suddenly the surrounding gets brighter.

The maid steps forward and bravely takes her stance while holding dagger knife as if she were trying to let her master run.

From her stance, I can feel it that she is an expert even while being here, this maid is not putting on airs.

「We don't have time to slowly think over a plan right now」

No matter how much powerful she is, I don't think she will be able to fight against this monster which has long ears grown on head just like those Punpun.

She won't die in one hit, but it's not like she will be able to hold against it for much time.

「Well then, shall we bombard it once from here?」

「No, this is our rare surprise attacking chance, let's make use of it」

I recall the combo attack of my 『Anchor Hand』 and Fiona's 『Aur Soleil』 when we fought against 8th Apostle Ai.

It will be best to go with that this time too, after all it is best to go all out when we don't know the ability of opponent.

「But we have no means of protecting ourselves from 『Aur Soleil』 , so Lily will deal the last hit」

I convey my thoughts briefly and the two immediately show signs of understanding.

Well then, it will be great if we can defeat it with this one combo.....

CHAPTER 201

ELEMENT MASTER VS WRATHPUN (1)

Even though it was night time when the darkness ruled, in this vacant land that had been cleared open by some goblins, brightness similar to a normal day had returned.

Above the monster trapped inside the rock prison, Lily's [Meteor Strike] had exploded.

It was an attack that had taken down every enemy with a single hit till now, but,

"Oioi—“

Kurono saw the monster intercepting the oncoming rainbow-coloured meteor with its fist.

The moment the white magic circle appeared and [Meteor Strike] was activated, the monster had regained the freedom of its right arm that was bigger than the left and felt unbalanced.

It had simply used brute strength to rip away the black constraints and had blown away the rock walls surrounding it.

By that time, the mass of light had been fired with a speed like an actual meteorite.

The monster glared above itself and swung its giant right fist against it.

As the red jewel on its right arm, that looked like [Queen Beryl] shined, its right arm was enveloped in crimson flames that came from it.

And then the burning right arm attacked the incoming meteorite like an intercepting missile.

On collision, the rainbow-coloured light and the crimson radiance became a torrent of light flashing all over the area.

Kurono who saw that impact had to close his eyes due to the intense light.

But the scene of that monster hitting the [Meteor Strike] with its fist seemed too powerful.

And in the next instant the flood of light settled and once again only the light of the [torch] remained shining in the night.

“It actually defended against [Meteor Strike].....”

In front, in the centre of a crater with a diameter of few meters, was the figure of the monster standing free of all its constraints.

“Shit, this really looks dangerous. As expected of a god’s trial, eh?”

He complained like that, but there was no going back now.

Kurono jumped into the vacant land with Fiona and Lily. It was right around the place where that student and maid were standing.

“Ah, you are.....”

The first one to react to Kurono and the others appearance was the tall, though not as tall as Kurono, male student.

He looked extremely surprised, well it was obvious considering the situation; Kurono thought so and decided to briefly say what was important.

“Oi, we’ll take care of this monster. You guys should quickly run away!”

Since it was an emergency situation, Kurono didn’t use the polite form of talking and spoke so with a strong tone.

“Eh, ah, but——“

Maybe he felt bad for making some random adventurer face such a strong monster, the boy couldn’t speak properly.

“Thank you very much!!”

But the bodyguard maid was able to take decisions cool-headedly even in such a situation.

She quickly put her master on her shoulder and turned her back to run away towards Kurono and others while leaving a simple word of gratitude.

Of course, Kurono had no intention of stopping her, in fact he'd be troubled if she didn't run away.

"It's a rank 5 monster called Wrathpun! Don't think of beating it, you guys should also quickly run away!!"

While being carried by the maid, the boy shouted so.

Kurono ended up smiling due to those words of consideration.

"So its called a Wrathpun. Is it an evolved form of Punpun?"

That's quite a ferocious kind of evolution it went through. Thinking of such things nonchalantly, Kurono faced the rank 5 monster.

"Sorry Kurono, I wasn't able to finish it off."

Lining on his right side while apologising was Lily who had already turned to her girl form and was covered by her green [Oracle Field].

"No, that thing used flames. It must be quite resistance towards heat. It was only a problem of compatibility."

When monster itself uses flames or lightning, in most cases it is also highly resistant to that element.

This Wrathpun was also no exception to that. In fact, since it's a rank 5, its resistance should be strong enough to almost nullify the effects.

"Then that means I also have a bad compatibility with it."

Lining by his left was the berserk witch that could turn everything to ashes, Fiona.

Certainly, since it had been able to take on [Meteor Strike] without losing any of its limbs, [Aur Soleil] would not have been able to defeat it either.

"We are at a disadvantage against monsters with heat resistance eh? Well, we found one of the biggest weaknesses of our party."

That doesn't mean that they could fix that right now though.

"It can't be helped, I'll have to cut it down. Lily and Fiona, you two cover me."

Roger. The words of agreement came to Kurono's ears from both sides.

In his hand, he already held his partner [HaraRetsu] and 10 blackened swords spread behind him like wings.

"Let's go—"

Just as Kurono began to run, the Wrathpun's red hair stood on its ends and once again raised a roar that echoed in the whole Gallahad mountains.

As the angered Wrathpun raised an ear shattering roar, it showed that the [Meteor Strike] had done almost no damage to it.

Since the heat of the light of [Meteor Strike] had been almost completely nullified, the only thing that reached its body was the shockwaves.

If it was a normal human, no, even a minotaur would have been blown away by just the shockwave but the Wrathpun was a power type monster that held high resistance against shock type attacks.

(“But what about slashing attacks?”)

No monster is omnipotent. If it has some strengths, it'll also have weaknesses.

The Wrathpun looked like a thick furred bear or a gorilla, a demonic beast so as to say.

That fur and muscles held high resistance to shock and striking type damage but a slash from a sharp blade should be effective going by the theory on monsters.

Conversely speaking, if the enemy was a skeleton that held no muscles or flesh or a monster with hard scales or shell, shock based attacks will be more effective than slashes.

If it was Kurono's [HaraRetsu] that had cut through all kinds of things till now, even if it was a rank 5 monster, it should be able to cut through this monster's flesh.

But, the Wrathpun wasn't going to wait for Kurono to come and cut it.

There was still quite a distance between the two but as the Wrathpun raised its arm, flames began to concentrate in its palms.

("Is it going to use a fireball!?)

That was, as if it was fire-type magic, a giant fireball formed above its palm.

And, before Kurono could come close to the monster's body, the flaming right arm fired the fireball with the speed of a bullet.

“—Black Shield!!”

Black fibres overlapped each other to form a defensive magic.

It's size was a rectangle starting from Kurono's knees to his head. In front of the incoming fireball, the black shield didn't look very reliable.

Probably, the Wrathpun thought the same.

It collided, then exploded. As black smoke and heat waves spread around, its lips which hid sharp fangs twisted into an evil smile.

CHAPTER 202

ELEMENT MASTER VS WRATHPUN (2)

It was an accessory inlaid with a blue jewel like a blue marine.

[Protection of the Blue Flame – NanaBlast Amulet], that was the name of that accessory.

A magic item of Fiona that held an incredible level of fire resistance. The fact that it had protected Kurono from Fiona's [Aur Soleil] while fighting against the 8th Apostle Ai was a proof of its effectiveness.

On the night of the 1st of the month of Kouen, I had received this rare item.

"This is a present from me, please take it."(Fiona)

An amulet giving off a blue radiance was given to me.

On asking why, she answered that *I bought it*. No, that wasn't what I was asking though.

"It matches with mine now."(Fiona)

While getting embarrassed by those words that might make a man's heart misunderstand, I wanted to ask about the cost of this 'rare' item and all but,

"Th, thanks."

I could only answer like that honestly and accept it.

At that time, Lily's unusually cold expression was also scary.....

As I cut through the fireball attack of the Wrathpun, I saw surprise in its eyes.

It seems it didn't expect me to get out of it unharmed.

Well, if I had not been equipped with this amulet, this unreliable robe would have been completely burnt through.

This present I received from Fiona is fastened to my leather belt through a chain.

Thanks to this, I was able to nullify most of the damage of the fireball.

The shockwaves and power of the explosion had been completely stopped with the help of the Black Shield that had become stronger with the help of [Black hair curse [Coffin]] as well.

As a result, I had only felt a slight heat and nothing more.

And so, at the same time as I got through the fireball,

“—[Speed Boost]”

Support magic came from Fiona.

My body became lighter and more strength came into my legs that were running and I became able to cover a distance of a few meters in an instant.

“—[Force Boost]”

And, as I raised my [HaraRetsu] to swing with all my strength, further support magic came to my body and increased the power of my Martial Skill.

“KuroNagi!!”

The Wrathpun took a backstep with speed unbelievable for its huge body and tried to escape from the black blade's range.

But, my Martial Skill that had been enhanced in both speed and power; it could not evade it completely.

From my hands holding onto the grip, I felt the sensation of cutting through its gum-like elastic flesh.

The Wrathpun that landed after stepping back had blood seeping out of its left hand.

Its nowhere near a fatal wound but it proved that this blade could damage it.

Then, I can do this. We can defeat this guy.

“Haaa!!”

In pursuit, I took one step ahead and my opponent also rushed towards me while roaring in anger.

Its right arm raised and was enveloped in the same crimson flames that had blocked [Meteor Strike].

I instinctively realized that this flame was even stronger than the previous fireball and even with the protection of the Amulet, the flames might really reach me.

Of course, even if the flames didn't, there's a high chance that I'd be instantly KOed if I simply took on that battering ram-like punch directly.

“Magic Sword Arts!!”

I launched all 10 of the blackened swords without hesitation.

Wrathpun took them on without showing any signs of worry.

7 swords struck him. Shoulder, arms, legs and chest, the places were varied but all of them were only shallow wounds. It only evaded the attacks to its head instinctively.

Didn't work. It wasn't strong enough to stop its attack.

Even with the Glove and the Amulet, it was still dangerous to take on its fire punch head-on. Since I was unable to cancel its attack, I can only try to evade it now.

In my head, I remembered those days of the maneuvering experiment where I fought giant monsters daily as if it was normal.

In those days, I had no weapon, no equipment on my body. How did I face those monsters then?

Charging attacks that made the earth tremble, attack from claws that could sever even the bones, jaws that were inescapable once trapped in them, attacks that would be simply impossible for a human but truly normal for the monsters.

I, who had neither armour or shield, fought such monsters and had come out victorious. It was only because I had been able to always dodge all such attacks.

That feeling, fights against giant monsters, the theory behind it, everything had already been engraved into this body as unforgettable memories.

“Daah!”

And thus, the burning fist came down on me from above.

To dodge, I have to go neither to the back nor to the left or right. I have to go front.

Since the giant monsters had great size, places near their feet or bosom were out of their range.

Jumping forward in a summersault, I felt that I had dodged heavy burning attack behind me just barely.

The fire punch aimed at me had only cut through the air and hit the weed filled ground, gouging out the earth as a result.

With the moment of feeling the shockwaves hitting my back, while rolling, I slipped through the Wrathpun’s body.

My posture had collapsed due to using the Martial Skill but I still swung the hatchet while passing through.

Feeling a slight response, I barely cut the monster’s right hind foot.

I, who had slipped through to the Wrathpun’s back, stood up and took a stance but that monster’s reaction speed was really fast. In the moment I attacked its open back, it quickly turned towards me.

At that moment, the one that attacked its back wasn't me but Lily's light beams.

It doesn't look like it caused much damage but I felt its consciousness move away from me.

A chance--no, a fireball seems to be concentrating in his hands.

"[Anchor Hand]"

From my left hand that was not holding the hatchet, I created wires out of the cursed black hair.

As the Wrathpun, raised its burning hand above and was about fire the ball of flames towards Lily, my [Anchor hand] entwined around it.

"Uoooooooohh!!"

I pulled the wires with all my strength but I couldn't win against its incredible physical strength no matter how much my body had been enhanced.

Soon, the wires started to get torn off and its right arm got free from its constraints.

But, that was enough.

The fireball that was fired was made to miss its target due to my intervention.

Without trying to see where the fireball flew, the monster quickly started pursuing me.

Pulling the remaining few wires still entwined around its right hand, I climbed up its giant body as if it was a mountain.

The Wrathpun shook its body to shake me off and I was swung around like an insect while holding on to it with my both hands.

Due to that action, me body flew in the air, and crossed 7m, i.e. right above the monster.

My body began to freefall due to gravity but I corrected my posture and released a Martial Skill in mid air.

“Kuronagi!!”

My aim was its neck covered with crimson fur.

Rather than its thick looking skull, it'll be easier to deal a fatal wound by cutting its neck.

If I'm lucky and am able to cut away the bones along with its neck, the battle will be over there and then.

And, the moment the black blade was about to reach its target,

GOAAAAAAAH!!

A roar loud enough to blow things away; it resounded in my head as if trying to destroy my eardrums.

But, that wasn't the only problem. The reason why I instinctively felt danger was because the parts of its fur that had been black till now also became completely red instantly.

But still, the swing of my blade wasn't going to stop, I have no intention to stop in the first place.

My full powered Kuronagi exploded against its thick neck covered by heavy fur and steel like muscles, which was still a weakness as a living being and was fully exposed.

“Guah, Hard!—“

But the sensation that came to my hand was the same as cutting through an armoured Knight's tower shield.

This was definitely not just my imagination. At this moment, the Wrathpun's flesh was similar to steel covered with multiple layers of defensive magic.

As a result, let alone cut its neck, my attack stopped at barely scratching its surface.

“—Are you kidding me!?!“

Wrathpun, that had become completely red now, the parts that had originally been black fur was now shining as if it was made of metal.

I who had landed after releasing Kuronagi faced against the Wrathpun who was giving an atmosphere as if it was wearing full red armour.

It seems, this reddening is not similar to the Martial Skill [Iron Guard] that enhances defensive power for only a short time.

Metalification (T/N: I know no such word exists but that was the closest I could think of), should I call it? At least this change is not just some kind of bluff as it holds enough ability to defend against my sure-kill Kuronagi.

“So this is its serious mode, eh?”

Unintentionally, a cold sweat flowed on my cheek.

This Wrathpun that has high heat resistance to defend against both Lily's light and Fiona's fire, had now sealed the only attack that could work on it.

That is, basically, we have no means of beating it now.

“.....What the hell are we supposed to do now?”

CHAPTER 203

THE SACRIFICIAL MAIDEN

Too many black wires wrapped around that huge crimson body to count. But to the monster, restraints of that level might as well not exist. There was no way that mere humans could stop it.

“Lily!”

As the monster broke the wires, Kurono called out his partner’s name. There was no answer; instead, countless bullets of white light came.

As Lily’s attack hit the WrathPun, there was an intense explosion large enough that Kurono was caught in it. Where those bullets hit, the impact on that red flesh was considerable.

The defensive strength of the WrathPun’s steel body was too great, and the damage was almost zero, but the WrathPun stopped for a moment from the shock. Kurono and Lily working together had only now managed to interfere with its actions.

But right now, just stopping the WrathPun for a moment was fine.

(Fiona, do it!)

As if she could hear what Kurono was thinking...

—حَادَةٌ عَصَالٌ جَلْ بِدَ الْرَّمَحِ رَمِيُ الْمَجْدَةِ جَهْ بِدَ—

Fiona’s chant finished at the perfect time.

—「『Ice Sagitta』」

Fiona was serious here, and while that was intermediate-level ice attack magic, it definitely had the power of a high-level spell.

As she waved her beloved staff “Ainz Bloom” a lance of ice that could freeze everything it touched came forth. Its aim was, of course, the WrathPun that Kurono’s “Shadow Wire Anchor Hand” and Lily’s bombardment had stopped momentarily.

Fiona would not have missed a human-sized enemy, and there was no way she would miss a 10-meter tall monster. The lance of ice headed towards the crimson-eared giant with perfect aim, and at the moment it arrived, the jewel in the WrathPun’s right hand flashed brilliantly.

“Aaaah!”

An explosion from the collision of the lance’s cold and the WrathPun’s heat assaulted Kurono, who was only a few meters away.

The area was filled with fog for a moment, and as it cleared, the large red figure of the WrathPun was still standing there.

“Shit, that doesn’t work either...?”

Distracted by the storm, Kurono finally failed to dodge that hammer-like fist. It was a serious hit, and he was sent flying backwards. He felt wind behind him, and flew through branches and leaves, until...

“Guh...ugh...”

Somehow he stayed conscious. He’d hit a large tree with incredible force. A normal human’s spine would have been shattered. Because of his toughened body, Kurono was able to get up again, but he’d taken significant damage.

His vision was fuzzy and his feet were unsteady, but he felt like he could still manage somehow. More than his stamina, the problem was the current state of the battle.

“Is there nothing we can do...?”

The WrathPun is as tough as metal, so we switched to Plan B.

If my blade couldn't do any damage, then the only choice was to use a different type of attack.

Fiona, who could use every type of magic except for "light" and "dark" magic, was the closest to being an "Element Master". If the WrathPun was resistant to heat, physical attacks, and light magic, then we just had to use a different type of attack.

To stop the enemy's movement, it took me in the vanguard and Lily as support: two people working together just to create a chance to attack. But the ice lance, using the element that the WrathPun was most likely to be vulnerable to, was completely ineffective. The original plan had failed. This Rank 5 monster was just too strong!

"Shit, what else can we do here?"

Quickly drinking a recovery potion, I felt strength returning to my legs. Without me at the front, Lily and Fiona would be in danger. I had to go.

From what I saw of the WrathPun, it wouldn't let us run away, either. It would probably continue to chase us even if we made it to a village. We had to stop it here, but we didn't have a method to actually defeat it.

We would just have to figure out a way to defeat it while fighting. My strength hadn't given out yet. We still had mana. There must be some way to bring it down.

Desperately trying to think of a plan, I returned to the battle.

「『Bullet Arts』」

The WrathPun was chasing after Lily like a child chasing a butterfly. Even if the bullets didn't hit, it would have to at least focus on dodging....or not?! It was completely ignoring me!

No, it wasn't even really looking at Lily.

"What bad luck!"

Apparently it was sensing its enemies by instinct somehow.

It wasn't facing me, it wasn't catching Lily, Fiona was some distance away but not moving...no mistake, it just chose her as its new target. Without me being close enough to use "Shadow Wire Anchor Hand" and Lily's supporting fire, we couldn't stop the WrathPun's movement.

But there was no way I could make it from this distance!

"Fiona, run!"

The WrathPun and Fiona moved at the same time.

Despite seeming to fit the stereotype of a magician that couldn't do anything without a warrior to protect them, she had actually operated by herself until she joined Element Master. To escape, she activated the speed-boosting ability 『Gallop: Air Walker』 like a skilled swordsman would.

But in this case, her opponent was too fast to escape from with that.

Lily and I desperately attacked the WrathPun with bullets and lasers, but it moved towards Fiona so fast that its huge frame was a blur.

Against the WrathPun's fist that could crater the earth, Fiona's slender arm raised her staff, and her defensive magic activated just before it hit her. It was the strong rock barrier that had easily restrained the Minotaur zombie, but even that couldn't withstand the WrathPun's attack.

Fiona's body flew backwards together with fragments of the rock barrier.

"Fiona!"

She had been launched in my direction. Could I catch her?

I sprinted with all my strength. "Come on!"

I intercepted her in midair to offset some of her momentum, and ended up hugging her when we collided. She would have crashed into a tree like I did if I hadn't caught her.

"Are you OK?"

“Mm, I’m OK.”

She’s OK!

“Here we go! Lily will be in danger if we’re too slow.”

I can see the WrathPun once again targeting Lily, who was hitting it in the back with lasers.

Lily can fly, so it won’t be able to catch her easily, but she must be reaching the limit of how long she can maintain her adult form.

Child-form Lily can’t fly, and would be quickly caught if she was alone.

“Please wait.”

As I started to charge back into the battle, Fiona grabbed my worn-out robe to stop me.

“What?”

“I thought of a way to defeat it.” She had the same indifferent tone in which she usually used to say things like, “I’m hungry.”

“Really?!”

“Yes.”

There was no way Fiona would be lying.

“What should we do?”

“Please cut me.”

What?!

I didn’t understand at all.

I seriously didn’t understand.

I'd enjoyed her occasional airheaded declarations, but this wasn't funny.

"What do you mean?"

She didn't immediately reply; instead,

『الجدار لمنع واسع نطاق على صخرة』 —— 『Rock Defense: Terra Wold Fan』

A large rock wall appeared that hid us.

"Just as it sounds, please cut me with your hatchet."

Right there, in front of me, she threw off her trademark black witch's robe. She was too fast for me to even be able to stop her.

In the middle of a life-and-death fight, I suddenly saw a girl's soft white skin. Fiona was scarily beautiful in her underwear. The situation didn't feel real.

All I could think was, "Do all witches have black underwear to go with their black robes?"

"Then evolution should happen."

I finally understood what she meant.

"You think my 『HaraRetsu』 will evolve from your blood...is that it?"

"Yes."

As it is now, my cursed "HaraRestu" can't cut through that WrathPun's fur and skin. But if it evolves once more and its strength increases, I might be able to break through that defense.

"But..."

"Take it easy on me so I just barely survive."

That's not the problem.

"No, in the first place, will it really evolve?"

It did seem close in that fight at Alsace. But it's tasted the blood of a fair number of monsters, and it hasn't evolved from that. So is it really going to evolve from the blood of one person?

"Didn't you know? Maidens are the most valuable sacrifices."

"Eh?"

"And I have a lot of magic power too."

Fiona was seriously saying this.

My right hand holding the hatchet was getting so sweaty that I felt like I'd drop it.

"Are you serious, Fiona?"

"Yes, I offer my body to Kurono."

I would really rather have heard those words in a different situation.

"It's the only way to defeat that, hurry..."

Fiona turned her defenseless white back towards me.

Her perfect, soft, fair skin, me, damage it with my own hands? I was seriously against this.

After so many battles, my mental resistance to cutting a human enemy was long-gone, but this...? My heart was beating hard, and I felt like I was about to do something taboo.

And yet, in this situation, hesitation would not be forgiven. On the other side of that wall, Lily was fighting by herself. Fiona had the resolve to sacrifice her own body for this.

So I had to do it. After all, I was supposed to be the leader of Element Master.

"Sorry, Fiona. And thank you."

And so, I swung my hatchet.

CHAPTER 204

THE PRICE OF ‘QUEEN BERY’

The burning fist of the WrathPun had sent Fiona’s body flying along with fragments of the rock shield she’d raised. As Lily danced through the air, she saw that Kurono had caught her. She wanted to go complain about the sweet situation Fiona was enjoying right now, and this red monster getting in the way of that was unforgivable.

Her gem-like emerald eyes met the ominous red-black eyes of the WrathPun. Lily understood that she had once again become its target.

“Daaaa!!”

She continuously fired bullets of light with explosive power, and the sound of them detonating against the monster as they hit resounded, but the monster’s advance was undeterred. Advancing through the flood of light and sound, the WrathPun reached towards Lily with both arms.

Lily evaded as she flew through the air.

Her flying skill had been enough to put the Pegasus Knights to shame, but because she was staying just out of range of the WrathPun’s attacks in order to distract it, the advantage her ability to fly provided was relatively small.

Of course, compared to Kurono who could only run on the ground, being able to escape into the sky was much a better situation. But Lily only had a short time left where she would have that advantage.

(Crap, my time limit is already up...)

Lily has been drawing mana from the red crystal Queen Beryl to maintain her adult form. She was not yet out of her 『Life Drain』 scrolls written on dragonhide, but this monster would not give her the time to use one. So, using Queen Beryl was Lily’s only option, and now she could feel that the limit of how long she could use it for was approaching.

She had explained to Kurono that the limit was exactly 30 minutes, but she could sometimes last a little longer. It wasn't that there was a hard limit of exactly 30 minutes at which point she'd be forced back to her child form. Rather, approximately 30 minutes was the limit of her body's endurance in taking mana from the Queen Beryl.

To Lily, the activation of it felt a lot like running at one's top speed. It wasn't a problem for a short time, but fatigue quickly accumulated after a certain point.

"Ha...haaa..."

Flying through the air, evading the WrathPun's attacks while firing lasers and bullets of light at it, Lily's breathing was getting heavier.

(No, I still can't turn back into a child yet...!)

She could feel that the burden on her body was getting heavier, but she continued using the Queen Beryl. Against this powerful monster, Lily being in her child form would be far too dangerous. She needed to end this situation where she could only endlessly dodge the monster's attacks.

(Do you have anything, Kurono??)

Looking at them, she could see that rather than returning to the battle, they were hiding behind a rock wall that had appeared. If someone just saw that, they would think that her party was leaving her as a sacrifice to escape.

Abandoning members of a party in an emergency was a definite possibility with adventurers.

Normally, humans would prioritize their own life over that of their comrades in life-or-death situations. It was for that very reason that trusting in their party members until the very end was one of the things that set first-rate parties apart from the rest.

Lily had that kind of faith in Kurono.

She had lived her more than 30 years never trusting anyone, but now she had given Kurono all the trust that she had never given anyone else. She had even come to trust Fiona, who she had calculatedly brought into the party, a little bit.

(But if you're doing to do something, do it fast! I can't last much longer by myself!)

She had the responsibility of holding the enemy at bay with her magic, and the burden on her small body made her feel like she was running endlessly through a dark fog.

“Ha...haaa...”

And then, there was a small opening in her defense.

“Kuh...”

Lily was now too tired to deal with the WrathPun that could move almost as if it could teleport. When she noticed her mistake, it was already too late, and the WrathPun had grabbed her, 『Oracle Field』 and all, inside its two large hands.

“Ugh, let go of me!”

If a normal enemy touched Lily's 『Oracle Field』 they would be burned by its light magic. But for the WrathPun which had incredible heat resistance, something like that couldn't even singe its palms. It tried to crush Lily's barrier between its hands with enormous force.

“Guh...”

Faced with that intense pressure, Lily's 『Oracle Field』 started flashing violently.

「— 『Radiant Force Edge』 ! 」

For Lily who was focused on long-range attacks, 『Radiant Force Edge』 was the only method of counterattack she had. The two blades of light could cut through an opponent that was merely “tough” and burn them to a crisp.

But the WrathPun was the worst opponent for this.

The direct hit of 『Radiant Force Edge』 couldn't cut the WrathPun's hands or even fingers. Instead, particles of light spewed through its fingers like flowing water.

(It's no good, I can't escape!!)

Lily was trying to maintain her 『Oracle Field』 with all her strength, but the enemy was starting to break through it. She pushed back with an intense flow of light magic from inside, but the fingertips of the WrathPun's right hand were starting to come closer to Lily's body.

And then, those monstrous fingertips reached Lily.

“Aaaaaaa...”

They had grabbed the rainbow-colored wings on Lily's back that were the trademark of fairies.

And then, those fingertips tried to tear off Lily's wings. Like a child trying to tear the wings off a butterfly, it cruelly pulled on her beautiful wings.

“Gyaaaaaaaa!!”

Lily's beautiful face was twisted in agony from this attempt to tear off part of her body.

And yet, she still maintained her 『Oracle Field』. Even as she cried and ground her teeth, and didn't know how many more seconds she could last, Lily wouldn't give up until the end.

(Kurono will save me...)

She believed in him, so she wouldn't give up.

(Kurono will definitely save me!)

Lily had faith, even in this hopeless situation. They'd lived together. Fought together. Her only partner, her beloved.

And so...

“Let go of Lily~!”

She was saved.

(See, I knew Kurono would come.)

CHAPTER 205

KURONO VS. WRATH-PUN

In the end, 『Cursed Grudge Hatchet 「HaraRetsu」』 evolved by sipping the pure-blood of Fiona.

A diagonal slash on her back, the moment fresh blood touched the edge of blade, this big hatchet shivered in delight.

The abominable scream which I had been suppressing with blackening, broke the suppression and echoed within my mind.

Mixed within that scream,

(The last blood is filled, I too and you too have hurt people important to us with our own hands)

I, indeed heard those words.

Before I could understand the meaning behind those words, fragmentary images rise in my mind.

The hills and plains illuminated by the moonlight.

Countless corpses of knights lying down.

Knight in red armor standing in front of eyes.

The beloved person lying by her own feet.

The blade of hatchet smeared with the blood of that guy.

They were the memories of girl who swung this hatchet, no, it might be the memories uphelded by this hatchet itself after becoming a cursed object.

The information mixed with noise, the situation of that time couldn't be understood precisely by me.

But, there was no doubt, that the hatchet in her hand gained more power upon cutting her beloved person.

「I see, so this was the condition for evolution」

Apparently, the expectations of Fiona were slightly different.

It wouldn't have evolved upon cutting just any girl.

It got the sufficient power to evolve only because of Fiona, who had fought with me till now.

Gaining power by hurting the comrades sure is a cruel condition—but, the power gained from that was great.

「.....With this, I can cut that guy into pieces」

The blade had gotten bigger if compared 『Cursed Grudge Hatchet 「HaraRetsu」』, the blade had already entered the realm of dual-handed sword.

It was black from tip of sword till pommel before, but currently it changed into a more ominous design with crimson lights in the shape of blood vessels which are pulsating.

Upon inserting the black magical power from the hilt, those red lines pulsate, a more greater dark-red aura rose, and it seemed like the hatchet was clad in fire.

This was the last evolved form, the true form of cursed hatchet which had the twisted love feelings of girl who had destroyed a whole village for a single man. The name of hatchet was 『Absolute Grudge Hatchet 「Kubidan」』

「Leave the end to me, and rest」

I sprinkled the 『Fairies' Miracle Drug』, which Lily made at the time of restarting the adventurer livelihood within Spada, on the back on lying-down Fiona.

I used up the small bag amount of it completely, and heal the gruesome injury which shouldn't be on a beautiful girl.

「Yes.....please.....」

While lying down, in a more sleepy manner, with eyes looking intoxicated, Fiona muttered weakly.

I take off my unreliable apprentice mage robe, wrap Fiona into it, and let her lie down.

「Yeah, then I will be going」

I shoulder the big hatchet, which I couldn't feel weight of and seemed like it had perfectly unified with my hand, then step forward.

That guy had already captured Lily and was trying to break the oracle field and Lily too with his both hands.

Reaching my ears were, the heartbreaking screams of Lily and howl of monster laughing evilly.

To the feeling of rage rising up in my heart, 『Absolute Grudge Hatchet 「Kubidan」』 gleefully responds—Cut, cut into pieces fast, murder the enemy, kill all.

While maintaining my consciousness to the point I didn't get possessed by curse, I brandished the blade and shouted.

「Let go of Lily!!!」

The blade finally was able to cut the fur of Wrath-Pun.

It struck the left arm, seeing Kurono attacking in rage, it quickly let go of Lily, and dodged, thanks to that it didn't suffer a serious wound.

「Are you alright, Lily?」

Kurono kept on staring at Wrath-Pun, but stood in front of Lily as though he were protecting her, and took a stance with the evolved-big-hatchet.

「I'm fine.....it hurts, but because you have come, it's all fine now」

Because he was showing his back, Kurono didn't realize the ecstatic and charming stare of Lily.

「I'm sorry, I used up all the miracle drug on fiona, so there is no more left」

Kurono clearly saw that Lily's upper left wing was halfway torn.

「No, it's fine, I will use my reserved one. But, I won't be able to fly for a while, and---」

Kurono understood that she couldn't maintain her true form now.

Kurono felt dazzling light flickering behind his back.

「No problem, I will take care of the rest, you rest with fiona over there, let me show my cool side now」

To the lines of Kurono which more than half changed into joke,

「Yeah, Kurono good luck!」

Encouragement in childish tone came back.

「Here I go---」

As though Kurono has his back pushed by those words, Kurono kicked off vigorously.

At the tip of his direction was the giant body of the red monster.

It glared at Kurono with even more rage-filled eyes, that might because of the injury on its left arm or maybe because his toy got away from him.

Either way, Wrath-Pun had no intention of letting the three returning back alive.

However, the same goes for Kurono.

Both of them shoot the deadly bloodlust at each other.

As though to oppose Kurono, who was approaching while brandishing the hatchet, Wrath-Pun launched its attacks first.

At that moment, Kurono swung down the hatchet.

Though the blade had gotten bigger, but there was still a distance of ten-odd metres, it couldn't reach the Wrath-Pun, at least that how it should have been,

「—Akanagi (Red Calm (at sea))」

But the blade of 『Absolute Grudge Hatchet 「Kubidan」』 reached.

The things which cut the body of Wrath-Pun was, the crimson blade formed from blood which were released from the pulsating black blade.

The new martial skill he learned by the evolution 『Akanagi』, created new blade using the blood it had sucked till now, and extended the blade at the time of slashing. It was a long-distance martial skill.

The blade left a crimson track of the same hue as that big body in air, and a severed slashing attack visited upon the body of Wrath-Pun.

Blood gushed out from the tip of the shoulder of Wrath-Pun, however, it only faltered for an instant, so it didn't suffer critical hit and continued its assault at Kurono in anger.

The distance between the two was covered in the time it takes for blinking the eyes once, all because of the speed of Wrath-Pun.

But, Kurono grasped those movements with his eyes, if he couldn't then, he would have been smashed by the fist before even lasting one minute after the fighting started.

「Haaaa!!」

When the distance between the two reached zero, the point-blank range war time started.

Kurono unleashed the ominous slash of 『Absolute Grudge Hatchet 「Kubidan」』.

Wrath-Pun unleashed a ferocious blow covered in crimson flames.

The numerous slashes left several red tacks on the body of the opponent.

The blow held the power to smash the frail body of human in paste, but it wasn't able to catch Kurono, who was quickly and cleverly moving around.

After evading the large-tree like arm which passed by his side, slight composure appeared on Kurono's face.

That was maybe because he has finally found the blade to kill the opponent, no, in fact, the reason was even more simple.

「Bastard, you're movements got dull」

Unintentionally, that murmur leaks out.

But, that was the answer.

The movements of Wrath-Pun were slightly slower if compared to when the fight started.

Apparently, the numerous attacks they had given it, affected the Wrath-Pun by reducing its stamina.

It wasn't that Wrath-Pun took on the attacks of the three because of its high defensive power, but it just couldn't help but take on the attacks because of the coordination attacks of the three.

Even so, it was standing on the dominating side due to the steel-like defense, to the extent that it might have won.

However, the problem of slight decline in stamina it had been ignoring till now, had become an issue now.

「Sorry to break it for you, but I have lot of confidence in my stamina」

Compared to Wrath-Pun, Kurono's movements were not dull even a bit.

Kurono, who could work without eating or sleeping for a week, would not be less on stamina in fight for at least an hour unless he had used large quantity of magical power.

Kurono brandished the sword near the feet of Wrath-Pun, he showed the movements as though the fight had just started.

Looking from the side, it wouldn't seem like they both had different speeds, but, Kurono was certainly slightly faster than Wrath-Pun.

And, the blade in Kurono's hand which could cut the prideful defense of Wrath-Pun would become the main factor for the outcome of battle.

「Kuronagi——」

He used the martial skill he was familiar to, and with every slash he unleashed, the blood sprayed in air.

The monster who was accustomed to fight due to instincts, evaded the strikes which could prove fatal by a paper-thin margin.

However, with every cut, the damage was only accumulating.

Like that, the fight finally neared the end.

「Double Kuronagi——」

The moment he crossed the inseam of Wrath-Pun, Kurono unleashed two consecutive Kuronagi's on the monster's legs.

Unleashing two consecutive Kuronagi was simple thing, but it could be said that it revealed the power of the evolved form in a straightforward manner.

The two jet-black attacks, cut the flesh of monster the most deep than any attack since the start of battle, to the extent that it lost the standing stance due to having the legs cut.

Having the big red body lying in front, Kurono raised the hatchet overhead in an overbearing manner and was preparing for the next attack.

Kurono was sure that, it was the last attack which would end this battle.

In front of Kurono, the head of Wrath-Pun was falling, the hatchet was waiting like the blade of a guillotine waiting for the execution. [ET: *Fyi, the body is currently in process of falling... :P*]

「—Yaminagi (Darkness Calm)」

Compared to the time he used Kuronagi, an even more dark aura wrapped the blade.

Kurono felt that his black magical energy was being absorbed by the hatchet at a tremendous pace.

The red light across the blade pulsates even more fiercely while releasing more suspicious bright light, maybe it was happy because the magical power of Kurono was tasty and it was about to behead one strong existence any time later.

And 『Yaminagi』 was the most greatest and strongest martial skill of 『Absolute Grudge Hatchet 『Kubidan』』

It was enhanced for the amount of magical power it sucked, and a wonderful powerful slash was unleashed.

Just like its name said, to sever the head of the enemy.

[ET: *Kubidan is made up of 首(kubi)=neck,head and 断(dan)=decision,resolution. While sever/cut/behead is 断つ(tatsu), see the first character of this word is same as decision. So use your mind what the name means. Furthermore, 断(dan) can only be read as dan and only mean what I mentioned above. So I had no choice but to write the names as Kubidan]*

「Ku!」

It cut the most resistant, iron like red fur, rip the bulky muscles, sever the bones, however, it wasn't able to sever the life too.

GuuGaaAAAAaaaAAaaaAAAaa!!

It was the second howl loud howl of Wrath-Pun, but this time it wasn't fiendish, rather it was the scream due to unbearable pain.

Wrath-Pun writhed violently, its right arm, the symbol of its strongest offensive ability was gone.

「I missed, eh.....」

Kurono exhaled a breath while muttering that. Beside him, the red right arm was lying down like a fallen tree.

The perfect timing Kurono unleashed the 『Yaminagi』 for a one-shot kill, Wrath-Pun protected its head with the left hand, maybe because of survival instinct.

It was really fast that Kurono didn't even see it, by the time he realized, the 『Absolute Grudge Hatchet 「Kubidan」』 was already hitting the upper arm.

The left arm which was the most thick and hard, beautifully got cut by the hatchet, however, chopping off a single arm wouldn't lead Wrath-Pun to its death fast, neither it would lead to instant-death.

Not to mention, if it was a monster with high life force.

Fast, I have to deal the last blow—

Kurono tried to attack again, but this time Wrath-Pun was faster.

「Whoa!？」

Wrath-Pun stood up quickly, struck its hand in the ground, shovel out the earth with its might and threw it at Kurono.

That attack was the most pitiable one, but it certainly stopped Kurono.

Having land and sand flying at him violently, Kurono formed the Shield and took evasive actions by jumping horizontally.

On the other hand, Wrath-Pun showed its back and ran at its full speed.

「Ah--」

By the time he thought that it was already too late, that large red body merged in the thick forest of Galahad Mountain Range, to be more precise it escaped in the forest the moment Kurono said 「Ah」

「I-It ran away.....wtf.....」

The things left were, the three members of 『Element Master』 having wounds all over the body and the right arm[of Wrath-Pun.

The silence returned within the surroundings, Kurono ,who was still standing still in the vacant land with fresh signs of fierce fights, couldn't help but feel emptiness due to this silence.

At the same time, the 『Torch』 used by the two who ran away also lost its effect, now not only silence, but also the darkness of night returned.

In that darkness,

「Damnnnnnnn itttttt!! Fucccccckkkkk youuuuuu!!」

Kurono couldn't do anything other than shouting while crying.

CHAPTER 206

NEST OF FIREDRAKES

[ET: Firedrakes = Salamander. Author changes between both, so I also changed it from using salamander all time]

「Whoaaaa! What is this, what is happening here!？」

The power idiot knight Kai, entered the nest of firedrakes and shouted those words.

Normally any one would retort saying 「Shut up」 , but currently everyone, even I, weren't able to retort.

That is because, the thing waiting for us in this nest wasn't the two-headed salamander but the heaps of corpses.

「C-Cruel.....」

Nell, standing besides me, knit her thin brows and turned her eyes away from the disastrous scene being illuminated by 『Torch』 .

Small or big, powerful or weak, the bodies of all sorts of monsters inhabiting within the Galahad Mountain Range, with their well-fleshed parts eaten, was lying all over the place.

Innumerable number of corpses, no, it must be the leftover food.

「What, so a salamander did all this?」

Charl, with her eyebrows knit, looked at the bloody spectacle, as expected of a firm-hearted princess of Spada.

「Nope」

Then Safi, the person familiar with corpses, told her result from observing the surroundings with a cool-mind.

「Salamanders are carnivorous, but when eating other monsters, they aim only for herbivores, while there are large quantity of carnivores mixed in this place」

I see, so even the powerful Salamanders, don't eat something that they can't.

「Besides, there are also plant-based monsters in there too」

While looking at the corpses of headless wood golem, and a mouthful bitten off Matango, I said those words.

「Eh, then what does that mean?」

Let's leave this idiot named Kai, you go and practice swinging the sword.

「Then, this is the remains of leftover food of a omnivorous monster, right?」

「Sure it is」

That also meant that the deed of eating all sorts of monsters while littering around the leftovers was done in this nest of drakes.

The salamander couple rearing children wouldn't have allowed this overbearing visitor to do its work.

In that case,

「It means that 'omnivorous monster' even ate the salamanders living here」

The proof of my words was in front of my eyes.

「This—」

Seeing that Charl gasped, other members too, more or less, weren't able to hide their reaction of surprise.

Similarly, seeing the unexpected spectacle even I was surprised within my heart.

In no way, the corpses of the rare-large-sized salamanders in pieces, could have been expected before time.

「Judging from their size, they are one」

Safi, being the most cool-headed person, inspected the bodies of salamanders.

The wings, tail and the rest has been torn into bits, but even those parts were bigger than normal salamanders.

Incidentally, parts about the size of young birds was also lying down.

It ate parents and children without exception, really makes me want to puke.

「T-Then this.....just who might have done this?」

Nell fired the question in a trembling voice, anyone would think this question.

「The strongest in this area is salamander, that's how it is」

「Yes, that's true, unless there is a irregular—in fact, this is that irregular, right?」

Just Charl answered to her question, this is one hell of an irregular situation.

Places designated as dungeons, have investigations and research upon the actions of monsters, and do know most of the monsters inhabiting the place.

However, for some unknown reason, sometimes a tremendously powerful monster appears.

「Now that I think about it, Wil was saying about monsters running from the summit」

「Ah, I see, so this is what it was!」

The fluctuations within the habitat of monsters, wasn't because of salamanders, but because of the appearance of an predating monster.

「In that case, it means we nonchalantly came to the nest of that strong monster, right?」

While raising an uncanny smile, Safi said some sinister words.

「Oh, that means, we can fight monster more stronger than salamander, ain't it great!」

「Kai, shut up for a bit」

Charl retorted one second faster than me.

「Onii-sama, shouldn't be head back just in case?」

Nell is right, in the first place, we came here to fight against salamanders.

In short, our equipment was of anti-salamander use only, and couldn't be used to fight against some other monster.

Changing the equipment based on the monster, that is called as common knowledge of adventurers.

Holy water is useful against undead, but against salamander it won't help a shit.

「Yeah, but---」

I put my hand on the sword hanging from my waist, no a 『katana』 which is made in a peculiar way, and turned back to face the entrance.

「---To our bad fortune, looks like the landlord has returned」

There was a single monster standing there.

「What is that!？」

Charl raised her voice in surprise. Even if she asks, what is that, I don't have the answer.

The monster which appeared without any sound, had smaller body compared to salamander, but the bloodlust emitting from it ain't no half-assed thing.

It had dichromatic hair of red and black, height of about 6 metres, sharp face like a wolf, and ears of rabbit growing from the head.

But, the most eye-catching thing was, the loss of right hand which seemed to have been cut off from the upper arm part.

Indeed a wounded beast, no, more like wounded magical/demonic beast.

「That is, probably, a Wrath-Pun」

「As expected of knowledgeable Safi」

This necromancer prodigy girl knows lot of monsters, because she had been aiming for creating the strongest servant from the good parts of every monster.

Investigation and research on monster materials can be said as a hobby for her.

「It is a rare rank-5 monster, by the way——」

Safi, while taking out her favorite spell book from the dimension she made a magic circle for with her hand, told a quite interesting thing.

「——It last appeared when His Majesty Leonhart, slayed it 20 years ago」

「Is that so, then today is a new record update for 『Wing Road』 's subjugation list.
」

At this time, all members had completed their battle preparations.

Me and Kai as vanguards, Charl and Safi as rearguards, and Nell in the end, this is our normal formation.

The monster with an odd-name of Wrath-Pun glared at us with fiendish glint in eyes, even while showing signs of exhaustion.

「I don't know who got you first, but unfortunate for you, you need to go down here」

CHAPTER 207

WRATH-PUN SUBJUGATION

On the 12th day of Red Flame month, second prince of Spada, Wilhart, was walking on the front street of Royal Spada Academy with a depressed expression on his face.

「*sigh*」

He also sighed, as if the unhappiness was truly leaking out.

It wasn't an 「appeal to show exhaustion from heat」 , but a truly depressed sigh.

This had continued since 5th day of Red Flame month, in other words, since the night he was attacked by Wrath-Pun and barely saved his life.

In the end, with Wilhart walking here and there around the school showed that he was saved.

However, the things he lost were too much.

First, the four other male students, all died.

And only the identity of two was confirmed, the other two had gruesome corpses beyond description.

But no matter how much gruesome death they had, as an elite cadet they too had resolve for fighting off danger, though this case was truly unexpected, but it could still be closed saying it was an accidental death.

No matter the reason, the elite course and knight course focus on fighting more, which in turns leads to quite a lot of casualties every year.

Hence, from the death of those four, Wilhart hadn't taken much shock.

In the first place they themselves took the actions of escape, so the responsibility falls onto them.

Running without thinking a monster might be lying in wait was a mistake every rookie adventurer did, just this time it went to the extent of death.

The person Wilhart was most concerned about was, the adventurer wearing apprentice mage robe and had a name 『Nightmare Berserker』 given by Wilhart.

The people who saved him from the situation where he had to leave Seria behind, were without a doubt him and his comrades.

If they hadn't appeared, Seria would have certainly died, he himself wouldn't have been able to escape completely.

In other words, it won't be an exaggeration to say him as the life saviour.

And, that life saviour hadn't returned from the Galahad Mountain Range.

「Damn it, why.....」

Wilhart and Seria, upon reaching Dakia Village, rushed in the adventurer's guild, and made an appeal for reinforcements.

Simply put, this reinforcement appeal ended up as a waste.

After all, the time they finished preparations and were about to depart,

「Yeah, that Wrath-Pun named monster, we defeated it ourselves」

The party led by first prince of Avalon, Nero, the 『Wing Road』, presented the corpse of Wrath-Pun to guild.

Upon hearing, the time Wrath-Pun appeared in front of them, it was 'slightly' injured.

[ET: If just it had all the power, then we would have seen this damn party getting kill!!!!!!leeeeeeedddd!!!!]

Wilhart's good brain understood everything, that the party of 『Nightmare Berserker』 was defeated.

They stopped upon injuring the Wrath-Pun, and the glory for defeating it went to 『Wing Road』.

Their achievement of killing rank-5 monster was accepted by guild, and they were promoted to rank-5 adventurers. This turned out to be the fastest rank promotion within the history of Royal Spada Academy, it even surpassed that first prince of Spada, Aisenhart.

The party of congratulations for Charlotte was held by the whole Spada royal family, but Wilhart didn't feel even a bit happy at that.

Right now the whole school was excited on the achievement of 『Wing Road』 and was covered with praise and envy for them.

However, no one else knew, that an adventurer fought for saving him.

Thinking carefully, he too called him as 『Nightmare Berserker』 and hadn't known his true name.

That's why, he couldn't search for him though he wants too, and even if his guild card was recovered within the Galahad Mountains, he wouldn't be sure if it was his or not.

Wilhart, didn't even had the means to confirm their death let alone their survival.

It was just too much frustrating.

「Damn it.....each and everyone.....」

While walking the interior of academy, only the talks about the 'history's strongest' adventurer party reach his ears.

Not only within the school, but their rumours even exist out in the city.

In the first place, whenever a new rank 5 adventurer appears, it more or less becomes a popular topic.

And in this case, it was a party of elite cadets who reached rank 5 within less than 2 years, furthermore, it had first prince and princess of Avalon, third princess of Spada,

and eldest child of Galbraith Family and Hydra Family, with this sort of people in the party it can be only called natural for it to become a great topic.

As a result, this news conquered the whole city of Spada more easily and sensationally compared to when first prince, Aisenhart became rank 5.

To the extent, it overshadowed the topic of serial murders of young girls which had been going on since a week ago within the city.

Without even 2 days passing, Wilhart had already gotten irritated on this topic.

He didn't have any resentment against 『Wing Road』, but to him the hero was 『Nightmare Berserker』.

Every time they were praised, without even knowing the existence of his life saviour, he came to despise others.

「*sigh*」

Hence, a sigh.

The only person who could understand his feelings was, Seria, who also had her life saved.

That's why, Seria didn't say anything to Wilhart and was letting him be alone.

Wilhart too knew, if he remained depressed like this, it would be problematic for Seria as well as others too.

He had no choice but to return to his normal form, raise laughter, and live school life while crying within the heart.

And, if no one knew about him, then at least he himself kept the gallant figure of 『Nightmare Berserker』 with the innermost depths of his heart.

The moment he thought a thing occurred.

「Huh, are you perhaps—」

Somehow he was called out by a man he was about to cross by.

「Eh?」

Upon being called out, he instinctively let out a shameful voice, and raised up his head.

「You're really that student who was attacked by Wrath-Pun at that time, right?」

There stood, the figure of a man with red and black eye, wearing apprentice mage robe on the tone burly body.

Though he had seen him only for some time, but he hadn't forgotten him, he wouldn't mistake him for someone else.

「Nightmare Berserker!?」

Wilhart raised his voice unintentionally, and seized the shoulders of man with an expression of shock on face.

「Eh, what? Berserker?」

「Woooooooo, you were alive!!」

The man without knowing he had an exaggerated nickname like Nightmare Berserker, just looked at Wilhart with perplexed expression.

Thus, second prince of Spada, Wilhart, and his life saviour, an adventurer named, Kurono, met for the first time.

CHAPTER 208

VISITOR IN FOURTH LABORATORY

Existing about 10 kilometres away from Capital Daedalus, the 『Media Ruins』 was crowded more by researchers in white robe rather than adventurers in armor.

That was because the 『4th Laboratory』 established by 『White's sacraments』 started it's work.

In the deepest part of large geofront inhibit rank 4 monsters, but because the laboratory was set up in upper part, only somewhat of guards have been spread out.

At first the crusaders were doing the guard job, but currently the adventurers have taken that job.

Only because Sariel wanted an early stage opening of adventurer guild, the environment where adventurers from republic could work had been made.

Setting that aside, despite being in a dungeon, here the research keeps on continuing day and night.

Especially the founder of 『White's Sacraments』 and the head of 4th laboratory, Bishop Judas, was extremely busy.

12th day of Red Flame month, this day was supposed to be the same as yesterday, that is to take analysis of ancient magic apparatus installed within ruins, but because of an visitor it was cancelled.

「Sorry for barging in when you're busy」

「If it is a direct messenger from St. Pope, we can't possibly sent you back」

The person who visited was a man with white hair, blue and black eyes representing day and night, and wearing a messenger's formal dress on his burly toned body.

On other hand Judas too had a big frame unseemingly of an old man he was, he had the dignity of an king of some country.

Just with having these two present there, the simple hurriedly built guest room, had the gravity of a throne room drifting within it.

「I don't think you have come here for just inspection, tell me the matter, 2nd Apostle Lord Abel」

And Judas knew, the person in front of him was the 'hero', with his social position camouflaged at the moment.

「I need a horse, a flying one would work better」

Abel didn't show any shock upon having his identity unraveled, neither did he ask him to not tell it someone else, just said his wish.

His speech was more informal compared to when he talked with other apostles, but he knew getting onto the point would be better when talking with the man called Judas.

「Fumu.....you cannot bring a sacred beast, I see」

From the few words of Abel, Judas understood the gist of the situation.

2nd Apostle wasn't called 『Hero of White』 for no reason, he had an horse fit for a hero in his possession.

But, because he had come to Pandora Continent as the messenger of Pope, he couldn't possibly take the 『sacred beast』 here and there without any problems.

「I will prepare the compensation of as much as you ask」

「Very well, take whatever you find to your liking」

Negotiations were immediately finished.

The other party was 2nd Apostle Abel, there wasn't any other person in the society who wouldn't trust him, bargaining against such a person was useless.

「Show me」

Judas replied with silence.

On his hand was a spider, which who knows when he summoned it.

It was a 5 cms long spider with long legs, but its body was transparent like a crystal, as if it was a delicate gem art.

A person knowledgeable in magic would suddenly understand that this was top grade servant used to record whatever it sees with highest accuracy.

However, it was improved by Judas himself, a person not close enough with him wouldn't know what it was highly efficient compared to conventional ones.

Abel too the spider in his hands, closed his both eyes, and started to concentrate.

Like that, silence dominated the room for five minutes.

Their bodies didn't move even a bit as if they had turned into stone statues.

The slight sound of breathing was the only proof of telling that these both were living humans.

「I will take the 13th black dragon」

Abel opened his mouth abruptly.

「It won't come cheap」

「It doesn't matter, I need this for going far」

Judas's answer was set to be affirmation.

This 『13th black dragon』 was one of the sons of dragon king Gaevinal, currently he was the top grade experiment material for research.

The usefulness of black dragon materials had been proven by the creation of experiment subject number 49.

Currently there was no one who had power exceeding number 49, furthermore according to the report from the group lead by Cyprus, he had shown growth far surpassing the predictions.

If he was able to make one more experimental subject with the same specs, then he might be able to complete a god soldier having power rivaling the power of Apostles 'without' the divine protection of white god, Judas thought that.

However, there wasn't any urgent need for it.

If 2nd Apostle Abel needed the black dragon then he had no objection to it, on the other hand, good amount of reward could be expected.

Hence, the words needed here weren't for rejection, but only explanation.

「The treatment of 13th black dragon hasn't been finished, there is a need for taming it with your own hands」

「I see, then I will start disciplining from now on, do you have some place?」

「The hall for mobility experiments had been completed just the other day, I would like if you don't break it」

Revealing a slight smile, Abel replied.

「I will keep that in mind」

That day, the hall for mobility experiment was destroyed completely, and the signboard of 'under construction' was once again placed.

CHAPTER 209

KILL THAT WOMAN

The party led by a young male warcat named Joto, finally cleared the quest for reaching rank 4.

They killed the monster after a fierce battle, by the time they took the parts used as proof, the day had started to sink, so they decided to return to Spada in morning.

They finally reached their long desired position of rank 4, party members were raising their voices of happiness, however, the face of their leader, Joto wasn't much good.

「What happened Joto, normally you would make fun of martial skills too」

The words of lamia swordswoman might sound like sarcasm, but there was hints of worry mixed in for Joto who wasn't in his usual shape.

His complexion looked bad, but during the time of fighting the monster, he showed leader like qualities while waving the newly purchased 『Fang Sword 「Evil Eater」』, so it wasn't like he got ill.

Neither did he take any attack of poison or other bad stats attacks because the monster this time had no attacks like that.

「Hm, Yeah.....I'm som'wat tired」

Though he had his consciousness, but the eyes with misaligned focus stir up anxiety in her.

「Ah, then hurry and sleep, I will change your turn for lookout as last」

The monster this time was the one which could consecutively launch several attribute magics.

Joto, holding the 『Fang Sword 「Evil Eater」』, which could nullify any half-hearted magic attacks, showed the most achievements during fight, this was something every member agreed upon.

Indeed today's fierce fight might have imposed fatigue on Joto, thinking that it could be understood.

「Yeah, sorry」

Saying that in the end, Joto disappeared in the tent.

After some while, Joto abruptly opened his eyes.

No, his eyes and condition was half-awake, feeling the reality as a dream, it couldn't be said he was completely awake.

With more than half sleep head, he started thinking.

(Ah, damn it, again—)

His waking was the worst, he felt the anger rising up within his chest.

Recently, before and after sleeping and waking up, he felt extreme anger.

Not knowing exactly, but Joto thought he saw a really irritating dream.

And, he saw it today too 'just like before'.

(It really feels fuckin' bad.....)

He gets excessively angry, to the extent it wouldn't be exaggeration to call it intent to kill, wanting to kill due to seeing a dream was just unbearable.

Even more when today was their celebration day for reaching rank 4. they defeated the monster based on his great work, and nobody even got injured, let alone casualties.

Happy days like this were not so often, but however, he saw a dream, he had already seen the dream.

(Argh, Damn it, Fuck it! What the fuckin' hell is this, stop this damn irritating evil dream!!)

HIs mind went blank due to anger, at the same time, Joto grabbed the hilt of 『Fang Sword 「Evil Eater」』 reflexively.

At that time the 'Not knowing exactly' dream changed into 'Clearly visible' dream.

There, scene of an ordinary highway was spread out.

Cloudless blue sky, overgrown green forest in right left, mountains, maybe Galahad Mountain Range in far distance.

Joto was looking down at the corpses of his 'comrade', whom he had never seen.

No, not comrade, more precisely comrade's'.

That's right, there were several corpses scattered on that highway.

(Fuck, I won't forgive you, how the fuckin' hell you kill my comrades—)

The unknown beastmen swordsmen and adventurer archers, were without a doubt 'my' comrades, Joto thought that.

Unforgivable, truly unforgivable, this adventurer party wasn't formed temporarily, but it was made from comrades that lived together in pain and sorrow, and had passed through many dangers, seeing them getting killed helplessly, really unforgivable.

However, they were not only just killed.

Every corpse had parts of body lost, this showed they were played with and then killed.

Who is it, who killed them, who killed my comrades—Joto tries to find the criminal with bloodshot eyes.

(Ah, that's right, it's you, you did it)

The person for venting out the anger, before he knew it, was in front of him.

That was one woman.

Race was human, age around the latter half of teens, hair color was pink, radical skin exposing clothes with white as base, wearing various dazzling ornaments, it was that sort of woman.

(I will kill her, I will fucking kill her, she's one who truly needs to die!!)

He identified the enemy, and concentrated the intent to kill on one point.

That woman was sitting, defenselessly, showing her back to him.

I can kill her, it's my chance, my perfect opportunity.

And, in my hand is my favorite sword which 'I have used for many years now', with this there is no way I won't be able to kill her—These thoughts run past Joto's mind in a second.

(Die, Die, Diiiiiiieeeeeeeeeeeeeeee!!)

His body leapt up like wings, the sword of fangs didn't feel like it had any weight as if it was a part of his body.

Just like that he swung it down, without any martial skill or anything, just normal power.

Cutting down the defenseless young woman gave no inconvenience to him.

Certain resistance, the feeling of cutting the flesh and bones reached his hands.

「Hahahahaha! I did it, I finally did itttttttt!!」

Giving out a cry of victory, Joto woke up at that moment.

「Hyahahaha—What?」

Coming back to senses, Joto realized that let alone dream he even wasn't in the tent he was supposed to be sleeping within.

「Huh, I.....」

He surveyed the surroundings, there was the scene of big trees of Great Forest of Latifundia lined up, however it was the place where his comrades had put up the tent.

Then he finally felt weight in his right hand, looked like he was holding the 『Fang Sword 「Evil Eater」』 in reality too just as he was holding it in his dream.

And, he also saw dark red blood sticking to the broad blade of fangs.

「Eh, huh, what is this—」

Just what did I cut? The answer to that question was right down his feet.

Lying face-down was, Lamia swordswoman.

There wasn't even a need to think whether she was alive or not, after all she was cut from the shoulder till the waist area in a diagonal way, her body was completely separated.

Immaterial monsters like slime then it might be possible, but a human shaped race, upon getting bisected, hasn't lived.

Instant death, it could understood at just a glance, even more upon being an adventurer.

「O-Oi, 'tis a lie,right, what the hell, what the fucking hell is this」

Joto understood even when wanting not to, that he killed her with his hands.

「UooooooooooooooooooooAaaaaaaaaaaa!!」

He screamed while being greatly perplexed, at the same time other members noticed the abnormality and got out of tent.

「Oi, what happened!?」

「Is it a monster!?」

「Where is the monster!?」

The gargoyle archer and twin goblin priests surveyed the surroundings while holding their favorite weapons.

And, in some seconds they noticed, unbelievable but true, scene of slaughter in front of their eyes.

「Oi Joto, what is.....the meaning of this?」

Bisected body of Lamia, Joto standing besides her corpse with blood filled longsword, seeing that anyone would understand the situation.

「I-I didn't.....」

Joto muttered the words of denial while looking away from them.

「W-What do you mean I didn't, eh. Didn't you do it!?」

Gargoyle shouted. Seeing his friend killed in front of his corpse, normally he would've nocked an arrow on the bow and aimed it at the criminal, however if the criminal too is a comrade he couldn't help but stop at just shouting.

「I didn't--That woman, I didn't do it!!」

Joto turned back, his eyes didn't contain light of reasoning.

On the contrary, deep red insanity filled light was flickering.

「Y-You--」

Then, finally the gargoyle and twin goblins reacted.

Through reasons unknown, the Joto standing in front of them was affected by some bad status and had gone insane.

The reason they were able to make that conclusion in an instant, must be because they had experience while reaching rank 4.

「Take stance! Joto is now a gonter! Keep your guard up, there might be a monster with charm or berserk ability!!」

The gargoyle archer, while pulling the bow, increased the distance between Joto.

However, the fact they were within 3 metres radius of Joto, taking heed of their classes, was not a good thing, it was complete despair.

Archer and Priest, both are rearguard experts, the radius of 3 metres and less was the territory of Joto, a swordsman.

「You too are that bitch's comrades!!」

Grimacing his face in tremendous rage, Joto swung the sword while emitting murderous intent and hostility.

Moreover, his swing was more faster, stronger than normal.

「GuGyaaaaa!!」

Without even understanding the meaning of Joto's words, one of the the twin goblin priests was slayed by the blade.

No chance counterattack, an admirable single strike.

No, even if it had time to counterattack, the mode of attack was magic, something not going good against Evil Eater.

Of course, it could use the wand in their hands to strike but, it would be broken into two easily.

「Fuck, how did it come to this—」

「I won't forgive that woman, I won't forgive her comrades too, I will massacre you all!!!!!!」

Battle strength and compatibility difference was, to the extreme extent, hopeless.

The left gargoyle and one goblin had no way to survive in the current situation.

Even more, if Joto had enhanced power and speed as if under berserk.

In the end, within less than 5 minutes, there were 4 corpses lying in this camping ground.

And, the last one person, with a bloodstained longsword, walked towards the dark forest.

「Where are you bitch, where the fuck did you go.....」

Joto determined to find his sworn enemy, no, currently he should be called former-owner of longsword, either way the place he was heading towards with longsword in one hand was, City of Spada where many people lived.

